

More Good Works and the Gospel Titus 3

Titus 3: Introduction

- Paul doesn't seem to tire of certain subjects.
- We probably shouldn't tire of them either.
- How Christians should behave is one of them. The plain facts of the gospel are another.
- He covers both of these again in this last chapter to Titus who is serving on the island of Crete.

Good Works and The Gospel are the basics of the Christian life.

We really can't emphasize them too much.

Titus 3: Outline

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1. Act Like This 3:1-2

- These are high standards if we take all of them seriously.
- **3:1 to be subject** implies "loyal" subjection (Simpson)
- **3:2** "showing all humility to all men," literally "all people".
- Are we prepared to do just that?
- We ought to be.

2. One More Summary of the Gospel 3:3-7

- **3:3** Paul starts with "**we ourselves.**"
- He includes himself in the group that possessed these qualities.
- He was outwardly extremely religious, but when Christ picked up the rock of Paul's religiosity, this is what was squiggling and squirming around underneath it.
- **3:3** **deceived** suggests a false guide leading astray (Guthrie)
- Note how quickly hate can proliferate.
- **3:4** **love ... toward man** *philanthrōpía* from which we get our word *philanthropy*
- **3:5** Salvation cannot be attained by human effort.
- God saves us because of His mercy.
- Paul never gets tired of talking about this.
- We shouldn't get tired of it either.
- It's a wonderful thing God has done for us – saving us by His grace through faith.
- **3:7** **Characteristics of an heir:**
- The heir is confident of the inheritance.
- The inheritance is a birthright, not an earned form of compensation.
- The inheritance forces the heir to take the present seriously – it forms part of the heir's present identity.
- The heir is not yet in full possession of the inheritance, but must wait for the right time.

The past, present and future of our salvation:

- Past: God's love for us appeared in Christ.
- Present: We have the abiding presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit and His constant renewing.
- Future: We are heirs according to the hope of eternal life, awaiting our full inheritance.

- **3:4-6** Paul is making a clear-cut assertion of the Trinity.
 - **3:4** **“God our Savior”**
 - **3:5** God saves us through the work of the Holy Spirit in **regeneration**, that is, we are born again.
 - **3:6** **“Jesus Christ our Savior”**
- See also **Isaiah 43:11, 45:21**.

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3. One Last Faithful Saying 3:8

- We've mentioned these before.
- There are five Faithful Sayings of Paul – all of them in the Pastoral Epistles:
 - **1 Timothy 1:15**
 - **1 Timothy 3:1**
 - **1 Timothy 4:8-9**
 - **2 Timothy 2:11-13**
 - **Titus 3:8**

4. Avoid Silly Arguments 3:9-12

- **3:10** Paul takes a “3 strikes and your out” approach to the divisive man.
- **3:11** Stubbornness in causing divisions is the outward indicator of a crooked heart and mind.
- Titus is not to put up with it. The person is self-condemned.

5. Final Personal Remarks 3:13-15

- **3:13** We don't know anything else about Zenas the lawyer, but it's kind of fun to know that there was a lawyer on the ministry team.
- One possibility is that Paul kept him around in case of shipwreck.
- *Sharks wouldn't attack out of professional courtesy.* :-D

Summary: Good Works and the Gospel

- God does not work through us as passive bystanders watching God do His thing.
- They take a high degree of intentionality on our part.
- The tension comes in when we consider that it is God that makes our works effective in accomplishing His will.
- He works through us as we do things.

- We can't be passive and expect God to override our laziness or fear.
- This is unrealistic.
- We also cannot see ourselves as lone fighters in the struggle for truth and justice.
- This is a road to sure defeat.
 - See **Philippians 2:12-13**.

Good Works in the Pastoral Epistles:

- **1 Timothy 2:9-10**
- **1 Timothy 3:1**
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- **Titus 1:16**
- **Titus 2:6-8 & 2:14**
- **Titus 3:1, 3:8 & 3:14**

The Gospel in Titus:

- The doctrinal ideas expressed in these three passages, all in Titus, are as profound as any in the entire Bible:
 - **Titus 1:1-3**
 - **Titus 2:11-14**
 - **Titus 3:3-7**
- Do your best to understand them.
- A deep understanding of your faith provides a deep foundation for a life full of good works.

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