

## Titus 3:1-15

### *Unto Good Works*

#### Section 1: 3:1-3 – Former Ways versus New Ways

*Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup>to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. <sup>3</sup>For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches us that there should be a difference in your attitude and actions before Christ and after Christ.

What makes the difference between the foolish and wise? Our works? Our abilities? Our gifts? Nope. Just Jesus. Jesus makes all the difference. Those in Christ are not pressured too somehow be better. Jesus is better for us. As believers we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us. The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and points us to all the teachings of Jesus (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:14), so that we are able to follow Him unto good works.

Believers, we have a guide. The Word (Psalm 119:105). The Father spoke the Word, Jesus revealed and explained the Word and the Holy Spirit helps us understand and follow the Word. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit make it possible for us to be different and live a life for God's glory. While nonbelievers are left to themselves. No guides, no Word, no understanding and no hope. Therefore, we only boast in God.

The Father and Son have given us the Holy Spirit to guide us unto good works. Our prep work is not getting more talented or perfecting our abilities...our prep work is submitting to the leadership of the Spirit and meditating on the Word.

Every day we battle with the possibility of grieving the Spirit. We grieve the Spirit when we ignore His leading, as He is leading us to act as Jesus acted. We find strength in submitting to the Spirit and following Him as He guides us.

Also, we need to meditate upon the Word of God. Why? Because the Spirit is always leading us to follow the Word of God (John 14:26). Therefore, the more we know the Word of God the greater our ability to recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit. Because the Spirit will NEVER lead you to believe or do something contrary to the Scriptures. In submitting to the leadership of the Spirit, we must be able to recognize His voice.

#### Discussion Questions

- ❖ What should be the obvious difference between believers and nonbelievers?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that who we are as believers is ALL because of Jesus?
- ❖ How faithful are you at submitting to the leadership of the Spirit?
- ❖ What are major distractions or temptations that can cause us to ignore the leading of the Spirit?
- ❖ How faithful are you at meditating on the Word of God?
- ❖ Why is meditating on the Word so important?

#### Section 2: 3:4-11 – The Good News is Really Good

*<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup>This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good*

*works. These are good and profitable for everyone. <sup>9</sup>But avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless. <sup>10</sup>Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning. <sup>11</sup>For you know that such a person has gone astray and is sinning; he is self-condemned.*

Why did God save us? Did we deserve it? Did we earn it? Nope. God saved us because of His kindness and His love. Our thoughts, actions, attitudes, talents, abilities...played zero role. Our "righteousness" was not considered. His mercy was all that was considered. We have nothing to offer God...that's why His mercy, grace and love are so amazingly awesome.

Because we have been given mercy...we should devote ourselves to good works. Why are good works important? Ephesians 2:10 (NASB95) - *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.* God's plan has always been to use His people to do good works which brings glory and honor to Himself. This is how we show that we've accepted the gift of the gospel...good works. We aren't given the gospel so that we can go live for the world and thus glorify Satanic ways. The gospel sets us free from the bondage of sin, so that we can freely live an abundant life enjoying fellowship with our heavenly Father. That's the goal. That's the reason we devote ourselves to good works. So that we can enjoy a healthy, vibrant relationship with our heavenly Father.

As we journey through life seeking to do good works and enjoy fellowship with our Father, the enemy is working hard to distract us. The enemy desires to take our focus off our relationship with our heavenly Father and put it on the ways of the world. According verse 9 our enemy uses things like foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels and disputes about the law. These things are unprofitable and worthless. People that try to cause divisions within the church are to be warned. If they do not heed the warning, they are to be rejected. Life is short and eternity is at stake...we don't have time for foolishness and trivial matters that have no eternal impact.

#### Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is the gospel good news?
- ❖ What makes God's mercy, grace and love so powerful?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that everything we have in Christ is a gift and not earned?
- ❖ How should the reality of someone being given wrath from God impact our lives?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that an abundant life is directly linked to fellowship with our heavenly Father and has nothing to do with worldly possession?
- ❖ Why is distractions and temptations so dangerous for a believer?

### Section 3: 3:12-15 – Final Instructions and Closing

*<sup>12</sup>When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me in Nicopolis, because I have decided to spend the winter there. <sup>13</sup>Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey, so that they will lack nothing. <sup>14</sup>Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. <sup>15</sup>All those who are with me send you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you.*

Again, we see this phrase: devote themselves to good works. Living out our faith is not an option. If you are a believer...then live like a believer. Work to weed out people, possessions or places that hold you back or distract you from living for God's glory. Faithfully meditate upon the Word of God so that you can hear and understand the Spirit's guidance.