

Good Works – Why Titus?

S.R. Titus 2:11 - 14

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Introduction

- A. We want to explore seven practices that can help our church be Zealous for good works.
- B. Surely every one of us who are disciples of Christ's want His glory to be seen by our good deeds.
- C. Message of Titus – not lazy gluttons – but “zealous for good works.”
- D. Three Basic Observations:

I. Good Works are Everywhere in Titus

- A. “Good works” is the constant refrain in this letter.
- B. Chapter 3:1,8,14 – ready for good works
- C. Two Key Passages: 2:11 – 14; 3:4-7 Center on Good Works
- D. The starting point for becoming a man or woman of integrity is the call to live a life that “accords with sound doctrine.”

II. Good Works are *Essential* to Authentic Faith

- A. If there is faith there must be good works. (1:1)
 - 1. To grasp the truth of the gospel means to live a life of obedience.
 - 2. There is an “Inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior.”
 - 3. “Deeds can never be greater than your thoughts. Thoughts can never be greater than your knowledge.”
- B. 3:8 READ “insist on these things.” See 3:4 – 7 context
 - 1. If we accept these statements (3:4 – 7) as true then you will be diligent to *devote ourselves to good works.*”
- C. You can ascertain what a person really believes by their works.
 - 1. Read Titus 1:16
- D. Where does insistence upon good works come from?
 - 1. It comes from understanding the appropriate response to saved by grace as *the gospel of good works*
 - 2. Godless living follows godless teaching.- Cheap grace results in cheap living.
 - 3. Christ's gospel is calling us to die with Him in order to live with Him (Rom.6)
- E. We are saved by grace – *ground* of our salvation.

1. But the *goal* of our salvation and the gospel is good works.
 2. In other words, the purpose of this grace in our lives is not to leave us unchanged.
 3. The goal is a total transformation into the image of Christ.
- F. Eph. 2:8 – 10
- G. Summary: We are saved, not because of our good works – don't earn it
1. The gospel is the gospel of good works because the knowledge of the truth or our salvation by grace compels us to godly living and serving.
- H. The Holy Spirit through Paul told Titus to “Teach things which are fitting for sound doctrine.”

III. Good Works are *Evangelistic* in Their Purpose.

- A. In Titus, good works are for the sake of outsiders, good works are evangelistic in their thrust.
- B. We, as individual disciples of Christ seek to serve the practical needs of our community.
1. Habitat for Humanity led us to a study at a real estate office with Adam.
 2. We share the love of Christ in both word and deed.
- C. Who is to carry out a life of Good Works? (Titus 2:1 – 10)
1. A life of good works does not detract from the gospel.
 2. In fact it demonstrates integrity, dignity and sound speech that cannot be condemned.
 3. This puts opponents to shame “having nothing evil to say about us.”
- D. A life of good works *commends* the gospel (v. 10)
1. Our conduct does not detract, but rather enhances and “adorns the doctrine.”
 2. This lessens the church's “credibility gap” considerably.
- E. The gospel of good works serves to adorn and commend the Christ who transforms people into servants in their community.
1. It was the kindness and service of the Christians to those dying in the plagues of Rome that crushed the opposition against Christ.

IV. Conclusion:

- A. Within Titus we have a timely 21st century manual for evangelistic outreach.
- B. We do not do the good works assigned by Jesus for **us** to be seen of men, but for men and women to see Jesus.