



Good Works -
Titus

Good Works – Why? Titus?

- “Inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior.”
- Grace leads to Faith leads to Life in Christ.
- Two key paragraphs to note.
 - Heart of the gospel message.
 - “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people...” (2:11-14)
 - Transformed by what God has done for and in us.
 - “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another...” (3:3-8)
- Likely written about the same time as 1 Timothy.
- Many similarities to 1 Timothy.

Who is Titus?

- A Greek, likely converted by Paul.
 - “My true son”
- Accompanied Paul to Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1-4).
- Delivered Corinthian letter and reported back to Paul. (2 Cor. 2:12-13; 7:5-7, 13-16; 8:16-24)
- Left on Crete to help strengthen the church there. (Tit. 1:5)
- Last mentioned in 2 Tim. 4:10.
- Tradition holds that he died on Crete.

The Mediterranean World During the Time of Acts



CRETE



Dark Times of First Century Crete

- Nero is Emperor in Rome. 63 – 64 AD
- Worship of Christ as a king was in the process of being outlawed.
- Questions needed to be answered:
 - How are believers supposed to think and act?
 - How can we keep from being deceived by false teaching and teachers?
 - How may our faith be transmitted to the next generation?
 - How may our fellowship thrive in a world hostile to our faith?

Good Works are Everywhere in Titus

3:1 “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every **good work**,”

3:8 “The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to **good works**.”

3:14 “And let our people learn to devote themselves to **good works**, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.”

Key Passage

- “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who **gave** himself for us to **redeem** us from all lawlessness and to **purify** for himself a people for his own possession who are **zealous for good works.**” (Titus 2:11 – 14)

Key Passage

- “3:4 – 7 “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 **he saved us**, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to **his own mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being **justified by his grace** we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Good Works Are Essential to Authentic Faith

1:1 ESV “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, **which accords with godliness,**

1:1 “Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to build up the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth **that leads to godliness** “ (HCSB)

Titus 2 is About True Doctrine

"Inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior."

Remember: "Deeds can never be greater than your thoughts. Thoughts can never be greater than your knowledge."



A close-up photograph of a yellow flower, likely a daisy or similar, with bright yellow petals and green sepals. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text "Cheap Grace leads to Cheap living." is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Cheap Grace leads to Cheap living.

The Ground and Goal of Salvation

Eph. 2:8 – 10 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Titus 2:14 “He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession, **eager to do good works.**”

Good Works are *Evangelistic in Purpose*

- Titus 2:1- 10
 - Older Men
 - Older Women
 - Younger Women
 - Younger Men
 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 "have nothing evil to say about us."

Remembering the Orphans: The Church's Care for Orphans in the Second and Third Century

“Fatherless children in the first few centuries of the early church had basically **three options in life: 1] Death, 2] Slavery or 3] Christian adoption.**” David Nowell “Dirty Faith”

The early church experienced rapid growth due in part to their emphasis on orphan care.

In a sharp contrast with the surrounding culture, early Christians valued the life of the most vulnerable in their society.

They turned their beliefs into practice by adopting or taking care of unwanted children.

Both of those practices resulted in the continual swelling of the early church's numbers in the second and third century

This care will in turn be seen to have an influence on how the rest of the Roman world began to care for the vulnerable in their society.



Remembering the Orphans: The Church's Care for Orphans in the Second and Third Century

The philosopher and Christian apologist, Aristides, depicts the economic provision of the Christian community in the second quarter of the second century, when he says, **Kindliness is their nature.**

There is no falsehood among them.

They love one another.

They do not neglect widows. **Orphans they rescue** from those who are cruel to them.

Every one of them who has anything gives ungrudgingly to the one who has nothing.”

Remembering the Orphans: The Church's Care for Orphans in the Second and Third Century

Chaz Robbins

Julian, a non-Christian source, specifically indicated that it was how the early Church cared for the most vulnerable in society as the key-determining factor to the increase in their community. He also begins to call the government under him to care for the poor so that they might not be disgraced by the Christians who were doing a better job caring for their poor than the Roman government was doing. **This high point in Christian history is evidence of what influence the Church can have on a society when the Church serves the most vulnerable.**

SHINING THEIR LIGHT

*These impious Galileans not only feed their own poor, but ours also; welcoming them into their agape, they attract them, as children are attracted, with cakes... Whilst the pagan priests neglect the poor, the hated Galileans devote themselves to works of charity and by a display of false compassion have **established and given effect to their pernicious errors**. See their love-feasts and their tables spread for the indigent. Such practice is common among them and causes a contempt for our gods.*

Vicisti Galilaeae “The Galileans have conquered!”

“Adorning the gospel of Christ”

- How will we wear Christ when it is unfashionable?
- What is the standard of beauty by which we live?
- Titus 2 is the answer: (2:10) “make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”
- The curriculum manual provides the how to of character qualities that delight God’s heart.
 - This winsome, attractive way of living appeals to the ugliness of our world.
 - It provides a timeless profile of faith handed down to the next generation.
- It helps older men and women know what is most important to share with the next generation.

Stress or “insist upon” these Things

- 3:8 “This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to **stress these things**, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to **doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.” NIV

