

Young Adults **PICTURE** – Bill – **Provide High Impact opportunities biblical expression | Plant → Growth**  
**‘Standing Orders’** – Definition: An Order or Ruling that is Retained Irrespective of Changing Conditions

SBI – **Fixed Responses in Fluid Environments** | **Freeze Tag** | Titus 3:8-15

<sup>8</sup>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. These things are excellent and profitable for people. But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. <sup>10</sup>As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, <sup>11</sup>knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. **Final Instructions**

<sup>12</sup>When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

<sup>15</sup>All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

God’s church...different Scriptural metaphors | Building = when we think about our standing orders

- **What’s the most important part? Foundation** | **Leaning Tower of Pisa** | **Need one doesn’t move**
- **What’s the foundation of God’s church? It’s not God’s commands – It is God himself**

**Foundation = Christ – Obedience = Result | Christ = Rock – Obedience = Structure**

- **Why does this matter?** We cannot get it backwards | Commands fit in...How we build! **CHURCH**  
**Build according to his instruction = Build something that is beautiful, strong, and fit for its purpose**

**BI – We have a standing order to build God’s church together**

Group project? **By myself?** No – Build His church together...Different gifts...**COMMIT DIVERSE UNITY**

### 1. **Dedicated to Profitable Work (v8)**

<sup>8</sup>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. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

**Verse serves as transition** – ‘The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to *insist on these things*’

**Foundation – (4-7)** All this is kindness and grace of our Savior – Rescued Us – Renews – Rewards

Poor workmanship = Harm church | Building poor foundation = Fatal

Paint color wrong...**Blue Not Gray** | Lacks Structural Integrity – Die | **Start ⇒ Then what? Good Works**

**A good work is an action that has faith in God as its source, the power of God as its strength, and the glory of God as its outcome**

Paul, speaking believers = ‘**Be careful to stay devoted to good works**’ – **Why? Excellent and Profitable**  
**Started a business – What will I do? Website – Marketing – Accounting – PROFIT | BANKRUPT**

**God’s economy, how do we profit? It’s right here: devote ourselves to good works...others orientated**

- Generate lasting value – Stay healthy as individuals & church – Set stage for growth | **TOGETHER**  
**Remember, good works aren’t defined by their magnitude or visibility | It Isn’t about**

Starting a movement – Holding a rally – Photo op = Day to Day practice of devoting ourselves to good  
**It is biblically inconsistent to say I’ve been saved and not changed | Contradiction of Terms**

**There is no more powerful force for rebuking all evil things, whether of conduct or of opinion, than that of the quiet, strong, persistent life of man or woman who goes on from day to day doing the duties of the day well, cheerfully, and with joy. – G Campbell Morgan**

### 2. **Divested from Worthless Business (v9-11)**

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Juxtaposition – ‘**but**’ Contrasting Priority / Prevented | Excellent & Profitable | Unprofitable & Worthless  
**Business – Avoid = Wasteful...hurtful | Church – Avoid = Hinder grow – Break unity – Needlessly Harm**

Island of Crete had groups influencing: Greek Philosophers – Rabbi’s – Judaizers...Bad for business

**Greek** = (Foolish) Fine Spun Problems | **Rabbi’s** (Genealogies) deifying | **Judaizers** (Quarrels) Sabbath

**Can we all agree there is a kind of discussion group that argues simply for the sake of arguing?**

- **Foolish controversies: “moro” – Root of which...guess...SOCIAL MEDIA ARGUING**
- **Genealogies:** Overinterpreting ancient genealogies...hidden patterns (**National Treasure - CODE**)
- **Dissensions: “my way or highway”** Antagonistic fights...own way at all costs...no regard hurt
- **Quarrels about law:** Not discovering God’s standing orders | Battles over interpretation of Law

**Non-Essential Biblical – Rapture of the Church | 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming | Version of Bible | Discussion vs Distain**

Obviously there is a place and a need for biblical inquiry and discussion regarding the Truth, but if the goal is proving one’s point in an attempt to win an argument or to prove one’s scholarship over people rather than displaying Christ and Christ-like living...we’ve missed the point | **Huh...Anyway...**

**The text gives a hard to hear warning about those who stir up division through controversy:**

<sup>10</sup>As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, <sup>11</sup>knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. | **That’s your First Warning**

‘Stirs up division’ – ‘Factious’ – ‘Heretic’ = Won’t submit God’s authority...take people with = Must Go

- Not someone who is caught up in controversy, **but stirs it up (Wrestling with vs Luring away)**  
**Difference ‘Delving’ and ‘Divisive’ | GOSPEL | Damaging & Dangerous (Warped) Perverted in Sin**
- **If it becomes time to break fellowship**, we don’t punish or condemn. We simply dissociate...grace
  - If that person is condemned, he is self-condemned. That’s not our business.

**Our business to actively divest from worthless activities – Build the church | What do we do instead?**

### 3. **Devoted to Meeting Each other’s needs (v12-15)**

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. **All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.**

This last section is Paul’s conclusion to his letter, and we can be tempted to just gloss over it - Sweet

- We don’t know Artemas or Tychicus **or any of these people with hard-to-pronounce names**  
But instead, look at it as a living application to what Paul has just talked about

Paul and Titus were together actively working on building up God’s church, they’re living it out

- Paul is sending people to take over Titus’ leadership role at Crete. Work doesn’t depend on one
- Roles may change. People are coming (Artemas, Tychicus) and going (Zenas, Apollos).
- All different backgrounds and vocations, all still part of God’s work

**Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful**

- Paul is again encouraging devotion to good works – And urgent needs...**we need to as well**  
**Guidestone – 30% increase in mental health claims over the past two years**

I don’t know if these are ‘Unprecedented Times’ but they certainly aren’t much fun

- Persistent Uncertainty | Perpetual Hostility | Polarizing Disunity  
Anger – Hatred – Venomous Fearmongering is traded back and forth across invisible lines  
**You don’t need to look far or wait long to find someone who needs help...we have it**

**Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful**

**Leaning Tower of Pisa – Foundation**

Build on a foundation – Dedicated to Profitable Work

Divested from Worthless Business - Devoted to Meeting Each Other’s Needs...TOGETHER

**Grace be with you all.**