

Passage: Titus 3:1-15

Title: Let a Revolution Begin in My Heart

Summary: In our last study we saw the early church in Acts, and we saw our Forefathers of America, be in one accord, and the whole world was turned upside down. In our study today, God goes deeper, straight to the heart, with a calling of pure beauty and power, and that is a revolution in our very heart, and the outcome will be glorious, both to ourselves and the world around us. Join us as we finish this wonderful Book of Titus.

Titus 3 (NKJV) ¹ Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. ³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. ⁹ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. ¹² When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³ Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. ¹⁴ And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. ¹⁵ All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Outline: Let a Revolution Begin in My Heart (Titus 3:1-15)

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- Speak no Evil of Anyone (3:2-3)
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- Maintain Good Works (3:8)
- Avoid Foolish Disputes (3:9-11)
- Raised Up Men (2 Timothy 2:2) Fulfilled (3:12)
- Sending and Meeting the Need (3:13-14)
- Ends Where it Began – Grace, Its All Grace (3:15)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Subject to the Rulers (3:1)

(Titus 3:1 NKJV) Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

Mark 16:15, the command to go into all the world. That's a command. Government can't override that. Hebrews 10, "Do not forsake the assembling of the brethren." The world cannot override that. God says, "My house shall be called a house of prayer." The world cannot override that nor governing authorities, and the church is to be the pillar and ground of truth. The word must go out.

In our last study we saw the church (the pillar and ground of truth) was to start a revelation to turn the world upside down, when and after they were with one accord, and we saw turning the world upside down (changing hearts and changing lives) would only come with much fasting and prayer:

1 Timothy 3:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Matthew 17:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*

Matthew 21:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² *Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

Chapter three verse one is read so often out of context, and it's a shame because it misses what the shaping is. It's not until chapter three that the order of command is given to be subject to governing authorities.

- The outline of the book starts with chapter one of the calling continually for the pure doctrine of the word to be taught in the church. And that elders and shepherds were raised up to teach, correct, extend the pure doctrine of the word of God.
- Then in chapter two, the calling is for godly men and godly women, both young and old and how they ought to live. Then how bond servants, that's workers in the workforce, were to work as a light on the world. And then the gospel is preached in purity and power in chapter two.
- Then in chapter three is the context to shape and impact and influence the government of the world.

The church, the people, good works sends a message to the world. Marriages can be solid. Homes can be stable. Kids can be pure. The gospel comes with redemption and purity because people are living in darkness, drowning in the darkness. Hence, they drown out the good news of the gospel because they think that's all there is. Oh, when the word of God breaks through, light breaks in.

And that's my testimony. I had all the world said to have. And I would look in the mirror to the bottom of my soul, see emptiness and darkness, void of color. I knew early, age 21, wife, kids, picket fence won't change this. And for years and years, I lived in that place knowing the emptiness and the darkness, trying to fill it and trying to convince myself that there was something to me and something would break through. But I knew deep in my heart, it wasn't. And I kept filling it, the void, with the volume of the world. But the void just kept getting bigger and bigger. Then one day, God called me to his word and I saw that there was more and by grace received him, not of works, because I knew there was nothing that I could do to buy it. I knew that all I brought was darkness and emptiness, but I trusted God would bring light and the volume of his love to fill the void of my heart, and he did. This world lives in darkness and hopelessness and hence why they are following whatever they are told, because they live in fear, but the church the pillar and ground of truth can speak the word and tell them there is more..... A God who loves them

Verse one says, "Every good work." That means all of them, and that means at all times. So, that means we need to be ready now and every moment to do good works. Not when we plan it, not when we feel like it, but every moment, we need to be ready for good works. And the only way that comes is being prepared in advance that, "I'm going to be a worker of good works."

If you give a cup of cold water, and not in the name of Jesus, the why of why you did it, then it is dead works.

Mark 9:41 (NKJV) ⁴¹ For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

Good works, by the way, they don't save you. They're just a byproduct of being saved.

Now here are some good works – not necessarily what we think they are, as we think feeding the hungry, teaching children's church, and the likes are how we see good works, but it is way more than that, because look what is said next:

Speak no Evil of Anyone (3:2-3)

(Titus 3:2 NKJV) to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

(Titus 3:3 NKJV) For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

Verse two. This is global, both believer and unbeliever, but wow. Paul had to tell pastor Timothy and remind him to remind people to not be mean, slanderous, harsh. Shouldn't that come as part of the preloaded software of the new operating system when you get saved? But obviously not. It's something of the old nature that needs to be seen and put in check continually, and hence why we continually come back to Matthew 17. Kinds like these don't come out without much prayer and fasting. There's something in the old man that continually needs to put in subjection to the new man, the spirit that is living in us.

Verse two and three tells us how not to speak. That is we're not to speak of evil. We're to pray, pray for the governing authorities, pray for our enemies. And you know what happens when you pray for governing authorities that you don't agree with and enemies that you don't like? God gives your heart for them, and maybe even a perspective of prayer breaks through the things of the flesh. And that takes us back how applicable not to talk evil about our employer and our bosses, or to give them respect and honor.

We are called to be gentle and loving with our fellow man. We must remember their spiritual condition, and why they are doing what they are doing; because they are deceived by Satan.

deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures - Deceived and serving various lusts - People say they don't want to be Christians because they don't want to be slaves. Truly it is the unbeliever that is the slave; before we were slaves our sin lead us around by the nose, it dictated our lives of what we would and would not do.

The point of life isn't finding freedom, but finding the right master. A master who would leave His throne, have His beard plucked out, His face beaten beyond recognition, His back shredded by a whip embedded with bits of pottery and bones, then his raw back laid upon a splinter filled tree. A splintered filled tree that He would slide he raw back up and down against as He would have to push His body up in order to get a grasp of air. All the while having to push the full weight of His body up on the nails pierced through His ankles. Crucifixion was a slow form of suffocation, because the body would sag on the outstretched arms cutting off air to the lungs, so the person would have to push up on the nails to straighten their body to get a breath of air.

Six hours, six hours....Why, to free man from the enslavement of various lusts, envy, be hateful, and hating others. Christian, we always talk about the love demonstrated on the Cross, but never forget that the Cross was the demonstration of love and the hatred of God. For God hates sin, and the ravages sin has upon a life. Sin was judged that day, not to make it free to live in it, but free to escape the enslavement of it.

The Master who freed us is now seated at the Right hand of the Father,

The Lord reminds us, remember how you were where they are at. Don't ever forget where you came from, or you will never be able to bring them where you are at. We are a forgiven people, therefore we should be forgiving of others.

Saved by Grace & Cleansed by the Holy Spirit (3:4-7)

(Titus 3:4 NKJV) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

Verse four. Romans 2. "It's your kindness that leads to repentance," one of my favorite songs of all time. It's an oldie, goes back 30 years, but still something I continually sing in my heart probably couple times a week. It's so beautiful.

Romans 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

(Titus 3:5 NKJV) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:6 NKJV) whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Verse four through seven. Verse three isn't a pretty picture. But when love showed up, love had to show up. We couldn't, we wouldn't see it without it, love, for we were deceived. We're told in verse three, think we're all okay, that we were justified, or we were victims or we were misunderstood and the likes. Love had to show up.

Verse five. He is merciful, because of his kindness and love. They're all interwoven together. His mercy produces kindness and love, but he's merciful, because of his kindness and love. It's his nature. Our God has a wonderful nature. It's a nature of love, and he loves you. He died for you and he's calling you to a personal relationship. He's calling you to walk with him in an intimate and special way today.

Washing by ... Verse six, the pouring of the holy spirit. Key word there is "pouring," and as beautiful as it is when the Lord washes us, catches our tears, holds our face in his hand, the tenderness of the merciful, kind, loving God. But when it came time for the cleansing, it was a pouring out of the holy spirit. I'd been to Niagara Falls, and I saw the pouring of water, and it was glorious, but I reminded of Glacier National Park. I hiked all the way to the top of that waterfall. Then I hiked a mile up the waterfall source, which was a river.

And that river was made by melting snow cover. And that reminds me of, we are white as snow, as Isaiah said. Though our sins are like scarlet, we shall be made white as snow. And I remember hiking up there and the water was crisp and perfect. It was cold. It had to be maybe 40 degrees at the most. And I found myself in a little alcove, 10 yards maybe off the main river, so I didn't get washed down. But I went into that to get a fresh drink of water. And I put my face into the water.

It was crystal clear. And I opened my eyes under the water, and I could see the gold sparkling in the water from the mountainous run-off. And there we are. We're refined with gold, made white as snow. Even in all that verse three said about us, he says, "Come on in," Isaiah 8:14. "Let me wash your feet," John 13. We just see the washing of the Lord to make us white as snow, cleanse from all unrighteousness. And we're free. And we're made new.

Not by works, but by his mercy and see it through and by the Holy Spirit was washing, regenerating, renewing. Verse six, and it was poured out abundantly, not just saved by cheap sacrifice, in an extravagant sacrifice, expensive. That means we're not just saved a little, we're saved extravagantly and abundantly because it's comparative to what the price was paid to redeem us.

Verse seven, justified means justified never sinned. And therefore, you can go back to verse three and you can wipe it out, remove it, wash it, cleanse it away. It is done. Jesus meant what he said.

not by works of righteousness which we have done - It is not about us, our righteousness, but about what He has done for us, in place of us. Man cannot cover his sin, they are nothing but Fig Leaves. In Mark 11 Jesus cursed the fig tree for not producing fruit. The leaves were there, but figs to satisfy the hunger of Christ. Our own works and efforts will never satisfy the requirement for sin, it will only leave us cursed.

Mark 11:12-14 (NKJV) ¹² Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. ¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

Genesis 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

renewing of the Holy Spirit - In John 3:3, Nicodemus comes to the Lord and asks what must a man do to be saved, and Jesus said unless one is born again he can not enter the kingdom of God. It is important to note who Jesus is saying this too. Nicodemus was one of the most respected religious leaders of that day. He was a religious ruler of the Jews we are told in the Scripture, Secular historians tell us he was one of the three wealthiest men in Jerusalem. Secular historians tells us that to study under Nicodemus was a greatest honor (like going to Harvard Law School), he was the leading theologian of his day, one of the most knowledgeable in the OT Scriptures, and it was he that Jesus made the statement to, you must be born again.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jesus says this to this man, so there can be no confusion, it is not you religious involvement, your reputation in the community, your social status, your knowledge of doctrine and Scriptures, it is nothing in and of yourself, it has to be all God, you must be born again.

Only God can cover your sin. All the way back in the garden He covered Adam and Eves sin, until the perfect covering, Jesus Christ, who covers us with a robe of righteousness.

(Genesis 3:21 NKJV) Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Only God can wash you, and make you white as snow:

(Isaiah 1:18 NIV) "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

(Titus 3:7 NKJV) that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Justified - Just if I had Never Sinned. That is the theology of justification, God looks at you as if you have never sinned, He looks at you and sees purity.

Grace - God's Riches, at Christ's Expense. It is all by grace, unearned favored nothing to do with our discipline, dedication, or devotion, but His unmerited favor.

heirs according to the hope of eternal life. -

(John 17:3 NKJV) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

We are heirs to the riches of the Father. The Greek word for eternal life means "age abiding life", it means more than just duration, but also the quality of life. Hope of eternal life, is not just heaven future, but here and now. Eternal life begins now, then goes on into heaven.

(Ephesians 1:3 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Whoever gets the Son – gets it all

You've heard the story, but it is worth repeating. A wealthy man was an avid art collector; his collection was worth millions and millions of dollars. His favorite painting though was of his beloved son whom he had lost at too early of age. The painting of his son was done by a common artist, a no name. It had no value outside the fathers home, yet it was the centerpiece of the fathers art collection. It rested over the fireplace in the center of the room, and it sat among the greats, like Picasso, Rembrandt, and Davincci. When the father died, having no heir to leave his estate to, his will stated that his entire art collection was to be auctioned off, and all monies to go to charity.

He auction day came, and art collectors and investors traveled long and far to come to such and auction, an auction like none before. The room was filled to overflowing, and all sat in excitement and anticipation waiting for a chance at a rare treasure. The auctioneer came out, greeted the bidders, and presented the first piece of art work, the painting of the son. The bidders eyes rolled and said what's this, we came for the masterpieces, but the auctioneer said it was the fathers directions that this be the first one presented. Who will open the bid he said. Others were like come on lets get to the good stuff, but finally some man said, 25 dollars, the room chuckled, and the auctioneer said do I hear 30, so some entertained, and said 35, and 40, while others said hurry up lets get to the good stuff. The final bid was 50 dollars, do I hear 55, silence, going once, going twice, sold to the man in the back for 50 dollars.

Everyone clapped all right now the good stuff. But the staff started to breakdown the auction room. People said whooo, wait a minute, how about the rest? The masterpieces, the greats! The Auctioneer said that is it, there are no more, for the fathers directions were that whoever would get the son, would get it all. Every other piece of art would go to whoever would take the son, for whoever got the son, got it all.

So too it is for us, those who believe, those who have taken the Son, for the Father says that whoever takes the Son, gets it all.

The Blessed Assurance

according to the hope of eternal life.- It is the hope, the blessed assurance that some day we will see Him face to face. It is this assurance that makes us live focused on Him, that His appearing could be at any moment. It leads us to a purifying life.

Francis Jane Crosby – 1820-1915

When Francis Jane Crosby was only six weeks old, she was taken to a doctor to treat an inflammation in her eyes caused by a cold. The normal doctor was out of town and the substitute gave her a faulty treatment that blinded her within days. She was blind for the rest of her life. When Francis was just a year old, her father died and her mother had to hire herself out as a maid to provide for the family. The girl was able to attend a school for blind children and afterwards taught there. When she was 29 a cholera epidemic killed more than half of the children in the school. After she married, her only child died in infancy.

Yet, in spite of these tragedies, Francis Jane was always a cheerful, happy person, free from the bitterness that so easily besets humans. When only eight years old, she wrote a poem that revealed a lot about the spunky little girl, who climbed trees and played practical jokes in spite of her blindness:

*Oh what a happy child I am, although I cannot see!
I am resolved that in this world, contented I will be!
How many blessings I enjoy that other people don't!
So weep or sigh because I'm blind I cannot--nor I won't!*

Francis had a natural talent for writing poems and was often asked to recite her poetry. Eventually, her writing brought her national recognition and she was invited to visit presidents and generals and other notable dignitaries. She even was asked to play at President Grant's funeral.

When she finally died in 1915, just 6 weeks shy of her 95th birthday, Francis had written over 8,500 poems and songs.

Most importantly, Francis - better known as "Fanny" - loved Jesus Christ. Fanny's love for her Savior became the inspiration for her thousands of songs and poems, many of which are still sung in churches every weekend today. Many beloved hymns bear the name Fanny Crosby, including "To God be the glory, great things He hath done," "I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice," and "Blessed Assurance."

When a preacher once sympathetically remarked that it was a pity God had not given her sight, Fanny replied, "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I should be born blind?" The preacher asked her why. "Because" she said, "When I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!"

This is my Story

Focusing on Jesus and seeing the good in God's plans for her, Fanny reached millions of people around the world. Children in church and soldiers on the battlefield alike have been touched by her words. May we, like Fanny Crosby, rejoice in the goodness of our God in every situation, that like her we can sing, "This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior, all the day long..."

Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Chorus

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Chorus

Maintain Good Works (3:8)

(Titus 3:8 NKJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

See, eyes that see need to be people who pray that unbelievers' eyes would be opened by love that came down.

Verse eight, how shall we respond to such love? Good works. Not wasteful, dead works, but profitable works. God wants us to do works that bring a profit. And yes, you can give a cup of cold water and feel good about it. But if you did that apart from in the name of Jesus, then all that you did was dead works.

The good works that we do must be correlated and tied to Jesus Christ so people know what brought the good works about, what was the heart and what was the core of them, what was the fuel that fired that good works. So we need to do good works in the name of Jesus, not just for

the sake of doing good works because we can take that as a command to do good works and be way off and wrong.

We should maintain good works; we should bear much fruit, for there is a crown awaiting us at the end.

2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1 Peter 5:4 (NKJV) ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly - Affirm what constantly?, that we are justified by grace according to His mercy, not our righteousness, our works, its all Him. We need to affirm this constantly, this blessed assurance, constantly to each others, to our family, to our kids. How do you affirm it constantly, by speaking it and hearing over and over and over again. It is what you know well, that will have the greatest effects on your life, what you know a little, will have little effect on your life. So affirm these things constantly.

maintain good works - Affirm what constantly?, you have to maintain your house, your car, your health, and so too you have to maintain good works, it doesn't just happen, you have to purpose that it is something you will do.

Avoid Foolish Disputes (3:9-11)

(Titus 3:9 NKJV) But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

Verse 9-11 stay on the mission and the mission is the Great Commission. Go, therefore, reject the divisive person after the second admonishing that's casting pearls to swines.

Back to verse one, God wants to start a revolution, Why? Because, verse three, the lost and dying are deceived. But for revolution, as we studied with the revolution of the United States of America, and as we studied the revolution of God launching salvation by grace and tearing down dead works of religion back in Acts 2, the revolution ... In Acts 2, the revolution and the American revolution, they were in one accord. And we must be in one accord if we're going to launch this revolution to win the lost and dying.

Avoid disputes and strivings, keep the main thing the main thing. Stay away from the things that really don't matter. Keep teaching the things that matter; that older men be sober, that younger men be examples, that older woman be wise and teach the younger women, that younger woman keep their house and love their husbands, that workers be excellent on the job.

Stay away from arguments over baptism, smoking, body piercing, and unsolvable doctrinal debates; the false teachers were trying to draw people into these debates over doctrine. Do the main things, and you'll find that the other things will take care of themselves.

For this sound witness, don't worry about arguing doctrine and theology, the best theology lesson is your life, all the smart theologians challenged how the disciple could live and teach in such boldness, being uneducated and untrained, but the answer was clear to the religious that they couldn't deny, the disciples had been with Jesus.

(Acts 4:13 NKJV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

(Titus 3:10 NKJV) Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

Here is an important key, stay away from a person who just wants to debate and argue over doctrine or personal opinions. The reason they want to argue is because they don't want to repent.....see verse 11

(Titus 3:11 NKJV) knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

Warped means not straight. These people are sinning and already condemn themselves. We don't have to deal with them, argue with them, they are arguing with you because they know they are wrong, and are trying to get people to support their sin.

This is a strategy of Satan; you see if he can get you tied up in debates with a person who is causing division in the church then he has not only nullified that person's witness through their personal sin, he has now nullified your witness, because you could be reaching people who really do want to hear about God love and grace, but your time is wasted on a person who won't listen.

You can't argue with a fool, don't waste your time, after the second time let it go, don't let them consume your time. You won't convince them, let God deal with them.

Divisive people want others to take side, chose who you agree with. Watch out for them. Let me just add here two of the most common areas this happens in the church. One is when someone wants to leave the church, so rather than just leave, they blast the pastor, the worship team, or this ministry or that ministry; whereas if they just said we feel God calling us to go somewhere else, then there would be no division. Secondly, dating. I see it all the time, a couple dates, it doesn't work out, and then a war begins. Gossip and backbiting, as one or both tries to get others to rally to their side, and chose who they will be friends with. They tear the other down, people in the church pick side, and then the unity is gone, and Satan is victorious inside the church again. If someone is doing either of these, then reject them, and see that they are in sin.

Raised Up Men (2 Timothy 2:2) Fulfilled (3:12)

(Titus 3:12 NKJV) When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

Verse 12, we see the fulfillment the 2 Timothy 2:2 provided to become profitable because Paul invested in them.

Sending and Meeting the Need (3:13-14)

(Titus 3:13 NKJV) Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.

Zenas the lawyer. Paul calls for a lawyer, I wonder if Paul had a sense that he was going to be imprisoned soon by Ceasar Nero?

(Titus 3:14 NKJV) And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Verse 13 and 14, send the disciple to go make disciples. The Christian life is that simple, win, disciple, and send.

Here I think is a Biblical example of how the church is to support missionaries. The missionaries would not be fundraisers, then should be out in the harvest, bringing in the fruit.

Ends Where it Began – Grace, Its All Grace (3:15)

(Titus 3:15 NKJV) All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

And where it always ends, where it always begins, verse 15, because it's all grace.

Paul ends here with grace, for grace is where we began this epistle, and where we end, for it is all about Grace. God's riches at Christ's expense. For whoever gets the Son, gets it all.

For whoever takes the Son, gets it all. This Blessed Hope, someday we will see Him face to face.

Outline: Let a Revolution Begin in My Heart (Titus 3:1-15)

- Subject to the Rulers (3:1)
- Speak no Evil of Anyone (3:2-3)
- Saved by Grace & Cleansed by the Holy Spirit (3:4-7)
- Maintain Good Works (3:8)
- Avoid Foolish Disputes (3:9-11)
- Raised Up Men (2 Timothy 2:2) Fulfilled (3:12)
- Sending and Meeting the Need (3:13-14)
- Ends Where it Began – Grace, Its All Grace (3:15)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.