



Living The Word Devotionals

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Zealous for Good Works



by John Vorhees

Titus 2:14 – “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.”

Devotional: In this letter to Titus, Paul reminds us of what a life of godliness looks like. Paul called on all Christians, no matter the age, gender, or social status to live so in all that they do, they may adorn the doctrine of God. Paul also reminds Titus that God’s grace appeared. It wasn’t that it was not there prior to that moment, but instead that God’s grace could not be more obvious than it was through Jesus Christ. There is evidence of God’s grace throughout the Bible, but perhaps none more “apparent” than SALVATION, for ALL people, through Jesus Christ.

It is through God's grace that we learn to differentiate the good and the evil, the godly and the ungodly, and thus we can begin to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions. As we go through this training, the sin in our lives should become easier to put away as well as help prepare us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives as we wait on the return of Jesus Christ.

We are reminded that Jesus died on the cross to free us from the bondages of sin. We, who once belonged to the world and to the system of lawlessness, were paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ and restored into His possession. We were adopted as children of God and made clean. It is by His grace that we are made into people zealous for good works. When we understand and experience the grace of God in our lives, we should desire to partake in doing good. We should be willing and wanting of the good works the Lord readies before us.

To do good requires, first and foremost, God in our lives. Goodness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and so goodness in its fullness comes from God. It is a virtue shown through holy and righteous living. The Greek for "good" in today's verse relates to something that is beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life. The actions we take as Christians should reflect the character of God and should be for the benefit of others. It should come from a heart with genuine desire for good to be done and without selfish motives.

When we look to God for example, His goodness is not constrained or forced. It is not out of character for Him to do good. As His possession, we should have an enthusiasm to do good works and it should not be forced, constrained, or out of character. Goodness is born out of the Holy Spirit and as we live in spirit, goodness flows forth throughout our lives.

Call to Action: Where are you in your walk? Do you desire to do good? Or do you struggle to do so? Do you only act good because that's what you were "called" to do? "I am a Christian and therefore I must do good." Or do you desire to do good works because that is who you *are* in Christ? What motivates you to do good? Think on moments in your life where God has shown His grace and goodness to you. Compare them to moments where you did not do good though you clearly could have. Begin to ask yourself why you didn't.

Make your move, Christian.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for being a God whose grace and goodness abounds. Shape us into a people who are truly zealous for good works. Help us to see every opportunity for good before us and give us the desire to run after it. Knowing you are the source of goodness, LORD help us to draw close to you so your goodness is evident in our lives. Draw us closer so that goodness is not just something we do, but it is who we are. That the good works we partake in leave no question that we truly are your possession.

In Jesus' name, Amen