

Sermon Notes 11/27/22

# “Devoted to Doing Good Deeds”

Why should we do good deeds?

1. Good deeds are pleasing to \_\_\_\_\_.

Titus 3:8  
Titus 2:14

2. Good deeds guard us from \_\_\_\_\_.

Titus 3:9  
Titus 1:16  
Ephesians 2:10

3. Good deeds lead people to \_\_\_\_\_.

Titus 3:13  
1 Peter 2:12

4. Good deeds meet pressing \_\_\_\_\_.

Titus 3:14  
1 John 3:17-18



**Doing good deeds is good for your heart!**

# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 6: November 27 – December 4

Titus 3:8-15

Doing good deeds should be the goal of every Christian. Paul has already pointed out this principle four times in the book of Titus (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1). In the last section of the letter, he emphasizes good deeds two more times (3:8, 14). Paul is hitting this subject hard in this letter because being lazy and unproductive was part of the Cretan culture (1:12-13). God commands us not to be conformed to the sinful patterns of the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2). And while we are not saved by our own good works, God has plans for us to be more than just people who are saved. We are created in Christ to do good works (Eph. 2:10).

## Read Titus 3:8-15

1. What did Paul want Titus to emphasize in verse 8?

C. Michael Moss writes,

Although it is possible to see Paul as referring to the kindness of God and the gift of the Holy Spirit, it is more reasonable to see a reference to “doing what is good” in the previous sentence, i.e., “good deeds,” a theme which runs throughout. Such deeds are intrinsically “excellent” (literally “good”), and they are “profitable” (or “beneficial”) “for everyone” (literally “for human beings”). The Christian life lived in a pagan world has a positive effect on non-believers.<sup>1</sup>

2. To what did Paul want believers to be devoted? Why? (3:8)

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell comment,

Those who are believers have "trusted in God," not in their accomplishments or goodness. Still, now that they have understood the richness of God's mercy toward them, the apostle's expectation is that those in grace will be "careful to devote themselves to [literally, "to guard or give attention to"]

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<sup>1</sup> C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 178.

doing what is good" (cf. 1:8; 2:1, 3, 7, 14; 3:1, 14). Our duties never garner grace, but the doctrines of grace lead to the duties of gratitude.<sup>2</sup>

3. What did Paul tell Titus to avoid in verse 9?

Robert Yarbrough wisely notes,

There was never a golden age when the Christian message or its precursors in John the Baptist's or Jesus's preaching were not disputed. Most gospel ministry will run into opposition and conflict eventually. Paul is not ordering Titus to avoid all controversy, for that would require retirement from ministry. It is "foolish controversies" that Paul targets. Subsequent warnings of what to avoid fill out the picture of what these disagreements might entail.<sup>3</sup>

4. Why is it important to avoid foolish controversies? (3:9)

5. What did Paul tell Titus to do about divisive people? (3:10)

James Smith observes,

*A factious man (airetikos)* literally means "having the power of choice, a self-chosen teaching or party." It is the word from which our word *heretic* is derived. So a factious man is a divisive person—someone who is opinionated to a fault. He tries to recruit converts to his point of view at every opportunity. He turns every Bible lesson into a discussion of "his issue." He tries to turn the class against the teacher, or the congregation against the preacher. Titus was to warn such a person that his/her conduct was causing dissension in the church.<sup>4</sup>

6. How did Paul describe divisive people in verse 11?

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<sup>2</sup> R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 397.

<sup>3</sup> Robert W. Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018), 552-553.

<sup>4</sup> James Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited* (Coppell, TX: lulu.com, 2017), 247.

7. Who was Paul hoping to send to Titus? (3:12)
8. Where was Paul planning to stay for the winter? (3:12)
9. How did Paul want Titus to help Zenas and Apollos? (3:13)

Moss writes,

Titus is to help them and see that their needs are met, a normal way to deal with traveling missionaries (cf. Acts 15:3; 21:5; Rom 15:24; 1 Cor 16:6, 11; 2 Cor 1:16; 3 John 6). Paul describes Zenas as “the lawyer” indicating that he serves as a Roman jurist. Apollos is undoubtedly the famous Alexandrian preacher (Acts 18:24-19:1; 1 Cor 1:12; 3:4-22; 16:12).<sup>5</sup>

10. Why is it important for us to do what is good? (3:14)
11. How did Paul conclude this letter? (3:15)
12. What are some good works we could do to be a blessing to our families?
13. What are some good works we could do to be a blessing to our community?
14. What are some good works we could do to be a blessing to our church?
15. How can we know whether we should share our view on a controversial issue or just try to change the subject?
16. What can we do when Christian friends or family members are dividing over foolish controversies?
17. How can you guard yourself against promoting or escalating foolish controversies?
18. What is one way you can serve others in your home, community, or church this week?

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<sup>5</sup> Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus*, 182.