

“The Gospel Motivation of Good
Works”
(Titus 3)

Pastor Stephen A. Corbitt

I. The Command of Good Works (vv. 1–2)

1. We should submit to civil authorities (v. 1)

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II. The Motivation of Good Works (vv. 3–8)

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II. The Motivation of Good Works (vv. 3–8)

1. God's grace in salvation motivates us (vv. 3–5a)

Horatius Bonar: “We serve Him, not in order to win His favor, but because we have already won it in simply believing His record concerning His Son... Terror accomplishes no real obedience. Suspense brings forth no fruit unto holiness. Only the certainty of love, forgiving love, can do this. It is this certainty that melts the heart, dissolves our chains, disburdens our shoulders so that we stand erect, and makes us to run in the way of the divine commandments.”

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2. God's renewing work motivates us (v. 5b)

John Murray: We cannot allow for any compromise on the doctrine that every believer is a new man, that the old man has been crucified, that the body of sin has been destroyed, and that, as a new man in Christ Jesus, he serves God in the newness which is none other than that of the Holy Spirit...

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Ezekiel 36:25–27: ²⁵ I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.

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III. Practical Steps toward Good Works (vv. 9–15)

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1. Discern worthy and unworthy pursuits (vv. 9–11)
2. Practically provide for particular people (vv. 12–15)

C. S. Lewis: It is easier to be enthusiastic about Humanity with a capital 'H' than it is to love individual men and women, especially those who are uninteresting, exasperating, depraved, or otherwise unattractive. Loving everybody in general may be an excuse for loving nobody in particular.