

Titus 3:8-15 – Do Good Works

We should be gentle and courteous to non-Christians no matter how bad they are because God was kind, loving and merciful to us while we were wretched sinners. At one time, we were foolish and hateful non-Christians but God saved us. He saved us generally when his goodness and love for mankind appeared in the person of Jesus Christ and specifically when we heard the Gospel and received it through faith by the grace of God. He saved us because he is merciful and not because we deserved to be saved. He saved us by washing us and making us new people by the work of the Holy Spirit. The result of God saving us is that we are heirs and possessors of eternal life. Because God has done so much good for us, we should do good works which benefit others.

Read Titus 3:8-11.

Paul says that “the saying is trustworthy”. What does “the saying” refer to? Note that “trustworthy” is the same word which we saw in Titus 1:6 which the ESV translated as “believers”. It was in reference to elders needing to have children who were believers. Other translations used the word “faithful”. In 3:8, the meaning is definitely “faithful” with the idea of being “trustworthy”. (3:8)

Paul wanted Titus to “insist on these things”. What does “these things” refer to? What was the expected result if Titus “insisted on these things”? Who benefits from good deeds? (3:8)

Based on verse 9, what should the Cretans avoid? Can you give modern day examples of what kinds of discussions / debates we should avoid? As opposed to good works, what are the benefits of these quarrels? (3:9)

What was Titus told to do to someone who caused division in the church? What type of person was Paul talking about based on verses 10 and 11? The word used here is the word from which we get our word “heretic”. The word is only used once in the New Testament and is best translated here as “one who causes divisions” or something similar to that. Our English word “heretic” has taken on a more technical meaning in the church. (3:10-11)

Based on verse 11, do you think this factious person was a true believer? What other passages can you think of that relate to church discipline? See Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:4-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:14. See 2 Peter 2:1-3 on the heresy of false teachers.

Read Titus 3:12-15.

Paul was going to send either Artemas or Tychicus to Titus at Crete? This is the only place in the New Testament where Artemas is mentioned. What do we know about Tychicus? What was Titus to do when one of them came? What did Paul reveal about his own plans? (3:12)

It appears that before Titus would be relieved that Zenas the lawyer and Apollos were going to be passing through Crete. What was Paul's instruction to Titus concerning them? This is the only mention of Zenas in the New Testament. What do we know about Apollos? (3:13)

In 2:7, Paul exhorted Titus to be a model of good works. In 2:14, Paul said that believers were redeemed and purified to be a people who were zealous for good works. In 3:8 Paul wanted the Cretan believers to be careful to devote themselves to good works. In verse 3:14, Paul once again exhorted the Cretan believers to devote themselves to good works. In this verse Paul said they needed to learn how to do this. What was the desired result of these good works? (3:14)

Paul said that all who were with him sent greetings to Titus. Paul didn't mention who was with him. Paul wanted Titus to pass on his greetings. What people were to be the recipient of those greetings? (3:15)

Paul ended the letter with his typical close of "grace... be with you". Here the "you" is plural. While Titus was the primary recipient of the letter, who else was to hear the contents of this letter? Who was the "you all"? (3:15)

What new truths did you learn from the book of Titus. What truths were you reminded of?

When you think about the book of Titus, what truths stand out to you?