

**Series:** Salt and Light: God's Vision for the Church

**Sermon:** The Devotion of the Church

**Scripture:** Titus 3:8-15 (ESV)

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

**Date:** January 31, 2021

The dominant theme in Titus is good works ...

"Show yourself in all respects to be a *model of good works*." Titus 2:7

"...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*." Titus 2:14

"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be *ready for every good work*." Titus 3:1

"The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to *devote themselves to good works*." Titus 3:8

"And let our people learn to *devote themselves to good works*, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful." Titus 3:14

"One of the problems in the Cretan church is that they had assimilated their ideas about Jesus, the Christian God, to their ideas about their Greek gods...specifically Zeus, their chief god. Cretan people claimed that Zeus was born on their island and they loved to tell stories and mythologies about Zeus's underhanded character. He would seduce women and lie to get his way. So, Paul wants to very clear: the God revealed through Jesus is totally different than Zeus. His basic character are faithfulness and truth. Which means the Christian way of life will be about truth also." Tim Mackie, *The Bible Project*

Past weeks' big idea statements to highlight what is being emphasized in Titus:

- Leadership in the Kingdom of God is not a title to have or a position to hold but a lifestyle to live, from a transformed heart.
- Sound doctrine, fueled by the grace of God, produces an increasingly godly life in a godless world.
- The gospel compels us to be a distinctly different people who are exploding with good works, to the glory of God.
- These good works, that God's people are devoted to, are to serve as a blessing to all people, both inside and outside the church.

Titus 3:8-15 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> *The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*

<sup>9</sup> *But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.*

<sup>10</sup> *As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,*

<sup>11</sup> *knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*

*<sup>12</sup> When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.*

*<sup>13</sup> Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing.*

*<sup>14</sup> And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.*

*<sup>15</sup> All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.*

**I. Devoted to good works inside the church. (v. 9-11)**

- "A church that does not practice church discipline of its members is not functioning properly as a church, just as a family that does not discipline is not a fully functioning family." Tony Evans, *God's Glorious Church*
- "Nothing can be more cruel than that leniency which abandons others to sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than that severe reprimand which calls another Christian in one's community back from the path of sin." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

**II. Devoted to good works outside the church. (v. 14)**

- "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10
- "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

**Book recommended by Jeff Norris during sermon (click to purchase) –**

*Rejoicing In Christ* by Michael Reeves