



31 MAY 2026 AM

Titus 3:8-11

SECURE

= free from loss; assured in opinion or expression

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:6

INTRODUCTION

- we are going to finish our study of the book of *Titus* this morning...

remember Paul had sent Titus to the island of Crete to **straighten out some problems** in the churches there and to **establish leadership** among believers

Titus 1:5

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

in closing his letter, Paul gave instructions for Titus to finish up his task on Crete and come to Nicopolis

Titus 3:12

When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.

- there were problems with false teachers as well as difficult personalities, but what was Paul's final conclusion to the ministry there?

1. FAITHFUL SAYING **verse 8a**

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly...

in his writings, Paul identified 'faithful sayings' only to his young preachers:

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1 Timothy 4:9-10

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.

2 Timothy 2:11

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

in each instance, the 'faithful saying' refers to the **salvation of believers**

to Titus, Paul stressed the need to constantly preach and remind people of their salvation

it is easy to get distracted by other issues...to focus on the wrong things...and forget the importance of salvation

1 Peter 1:18-19

...ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

in our vernacular, we might say, 'Keep the main thing the main thing.'

there is work to be done...there are conversations to be had...but never lose sight of the fact that you are a child of God and Heaven is your destiny

2. FRUITFUL SERVICE **verse 8b**

...that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

PERSISTENT WORKS

after his salvation, Paul asked God for something to do:

Acts 9:6

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Paul was following the example of Christ...

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

five times in this letter, Paul emphasized the **good works** of believers

2:7, 14 (3:1, 8, 14)

and again, we have to contrast this with the idea of 'works of righteousness' in **3:5**

we do good works because we are saved...not in order to get saved

James 2:18

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

these good works must be **MAINTAINED**

= to rule over

it is easy to start a project, but we often get tired and quit

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

POTENT WORKS

...These things are good and profitable unto men.

Paul was also quick to point out the purpose of these good works...they benefit those outside of the faith

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

Colossians 4:5

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

NOTE: Ephesians 4 is a great commentary on this idea

3. FORCEFUL STAND **verses 9-11**

But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

FOOLISH POLEMICS

= a verbal attack; controversial argument

there are always going to be those who want to argue the finer points of foolishness:

Can God make a rock so big..?

Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons?

Where did Cain get his wife?

but go back to what Paul said earlier...*This is a faithful saying...*

God is concerned with saving souls rather than answering foolish questions

the Jews in Paul's day were concerned more with a person's human genealogy than with their spiritual lineage

they would argue the finer points of keeping the Law and how that should be interpreted

Paul concluded all these things were **unprofitable** and **vain** (remember...good works are profitable)

Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.

~Theodore Roosevelt (?)

humanity is often consumed with vain things:

vain idolatry

Acts 14:15

vain philosophy

1 Corinthians 3:20

vain theology

1 Corinthians 15:17

FOOLISH PEOPLE

A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

heretic = (lit. capable of choosing)

a heretic is one who chooses the wrong opinion on purpose

New Testament leadership constantly had to deal with heretics:

denying the resurrection 2 Timothy 2:17-18

denying the Lord 2 Peter 2:1

in the synagogue of satan Revelation 2:9

of course, we have plenty of heresy to confront in our own culture today

those who deny hell

those who would adapt Christianity to current scientific thoughts and trends

the prosperity gospel

but Paul's warning was about not wasting time on those who have chosen to ignore the truth

give them the truth...speak to them once or twice...but move on to others who are willing to listen

apologetics = systematic argumentative discourse defense of a doctrine

Matthew 7:6

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

once more, go back to the faithful saying...

2 Timothy 1:12

for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.