

“The Gospel Driven Life of Good Works”

Pastor Steve Choi

Titus 3:1–8

[1] Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, [2] to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. [3] For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. [4] But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, [5] he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. [8] 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. (ESV)

Main Idea: The gospel driven life is a life devoted to good works. In this message we will see how the gospel saves us unto good works. We will examine 4 key words that teach us the various facets of the gospel. Following that we will see what the Christian’s life of good works looks like.

These are 4 key words used in the text that explains the gospel to us.

1. Loving Kindness (Titus 3:4)
2. Regeneration (Titus 3:5)
3. Justified (Titus 3:7)
4. Heirs (Titus 3:7)

The Christian’s proper response to good works:

1. The Christian is committed to good works.
 - a. Titus 2:14 says that we are to be people “who are zealous for good works.” The word zealous literally means to be boiling hot which can be understood as “highly committed”. The same word is used of the extreme faction of Pharisees who were called the “zealots.” The Zealots were willing to stand up to the government even turning to violence to further their beliefs.
 - This means that the Christian is not casual about good works. We are a people deeply committed to doing good to those in the church and outsiders as well.

2. The Christian is ready for every good work even in difficult situations.
 - In Titus 3:1, Paul tells us to be ready for every good work. If you read the context, the good works were to be lived out in a difficult environment. They were to be gentle and do good to outsiders who were hostile to them. We often think doing good should be in a “fun” or “safe” environment. The call here is one of doing good in a difficult environment to difficult people.

3. The Christian’s gospel is the engine behind all the good works.
 - Paul reminds us of the gospel message in the middle of the passage. He reminds the reader of how the Father, Son and Spirit saved us and what that looks like in Titus 3:3-7. After being reminded of the gospel, the people are now called to devote themselves to good works. Our devotion always follows the free mercy found in Christ. The gospel message motivates, teaches and guides us to a devotion to good works (Titus 3:8).

Community Group Study Guide:

1. How are you doing?
 - a. [Allow so some for sharing how everyone is doing.](#)

2. Read Titus 2:14, 3:1 and 3:8. What does these verses say about good works?
 - a. [These verses tell us to be “zealous” \(2:14\), “ready for good works \(3:1\) and “devoted” \(3:8\). Obviously, good works is the big idea of this passage. Paul implores the reader to live a life of good works.](#)

3. Paul in the middle this command on good works goes back to the gospel of Christ. Four key words he uses are: loving-kindness, regeneration, justified and heirs (Titus 3:4-7). Share which one of the four words most encourages you to live for God.
 - a. Loving-kindness is what God shows us through Christ. It literally means a love for mankind.
 - b. Regeneration means new birth. God the Holy Spirit makes us new, not simply better or improved.
 - c. Justified is a forensic term where the guilty is declared righteous and treated as a righteous person.
 - d. Heirs suggest that we are now adopted into the family and will receive an inheritance that is undeserved.

4. We are reminded to be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14). What are you zealous for?
 - a. Some are zealous for their family, careers, image. We are called to be zealous for good works.

5. Our good works are not to be casual but lived out even in difficult circumstances (Titus 3:1). How can you be “ready” to do good to difficult people/ circumstances?
 - a. Have people share a time when they did something good when it wasn’t convenient.

6. How does the gospel motivate you to be devoted to good works (Titus 3:8)?
 - a. The gospel is the engine that drives us to do good. Jesus empowers us and gives us the gifts to serve others. Every time we hear the gospel, we are moved to do good works for the glory of God. Christians need the gospel as much as the non Christian. Some may share how gratitude from the gospel moves them. Others may share the freedom from sin and a reminder of our identity as heirs may encourage sacrificial living now.