

Maintaining Morale

July 16, 2017 ~ Titus 2.15-3.11

Part 6 of 7-Part Series

❖ Parts 1 thru 5:

1. Following Orders ~ 2 things – “set in order” and “appoint elders”
2. Choosing Lieutenants ~ Elder role and qualifications
3. Establishing Discipline ~ Titus was to “**stop the mouths**” of false teachers
4. Training Troops ~ Paul gave specific direction to 5 social groups
5. Honoring Heroes ~ We serve in “blessed hope” and look for Christ

❖ Today’s message is about “**Maintaining Morale**”

4 Parts to Message (but must jump around)

1. Titus ~ v2.15-3.1a and v3.8a,9-11 ~ “**What To Do**” and “**What Not To Do**”
2. Cretans ~ v1b-2,8 & 3 ~ “**What They’re Now To Do**” & “**What They Used To Do**”
3. Trinity ~ v4-6 ~ “**What God Did**” and “**How God Did It**”
4. Cretans ~ v7 ~ “**What Has Happened To Them**”

1. Titus ~ v2.15-3.1a and v3.8a,9-11 ~ “**What To Do**” and “**What Not To Do**”

v2.15a ~ “**Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke**”

- ❖ Titus is to speak ~ The form is exhortation and rebuke
 - ✧ Exhort when someone is struggling / conscience stricken
 - ✧ Rebuke when someone is unrepentant and justifying or minimizing sin
 - ✧ Both are forms of encouragement / Both are needed

v2.15b ~ “**.. with all authority. Let no one despise you**”

- ❖ Paul wants Titus to demonstrate firm leadership, strength and resolve
 - ✧ The Cretans are a tough bunch and will require strong leadership
 - ✧ Paul wants Titus to demonstrate firm leadership, strength and resolve

v1a ~ “**Remind them to be ..**”

v8a ~ “**.. these things I want you to affirm constantly**”

- ❖ “Remind them” ~ They already know / But they (*and we*) need reminding
- ❖ “affirm constantly” ~ Not once or twice / Drill them / Catechize them

Xition: Now what was Titus not to do ...?

v9-11 ~ “But avoid foolish disputes .. sinning, being self-condemned”

- ❖ v9 ~ “avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, strivings about the law”
 - ✧ Paul advises Titus to not even get drawn into such pursuits
 - ✧ He goes on to describe them as “unprofitable and useless”
 - ✧ Paul wants Titus to control agenda / Bring discussion back to Christ
 - ✧ That’s not always easy or possible / That’s why he goes farther in v10
- ❖ v10 ~ “Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition”
 - ✧ By the first admonition such a man has been divisive for a while already
 - ✧ The second admonition must end it / There is no dialogue after that
- ❖ v11 ~ “such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned”
 - ✧ The longer we entertain heresy the more license some will take
 - ✧ Paul takes an aggressive stance on this / We can be too patient and polite
- ❖ This is why Paul was so forceful in 2.15 ~ “Let no one despise you”
 - ✧ Paul isn’t referring to Titus as a man / But Titus as spokesman for God

2. Cretans ~ v1b-2,8 & 3 ~ “What They’re Now To Do” & “What They Used To Do”

v1b-2 ~ 7 Perfections of the Christian

- ❖ “be subject to rulers and authorities ~ submission
- ❖ “be ready for every good work” ~ ready to serve others / requires preparation
- ❖ “speak evil of no one” ~ don’t voice the negative thoughts
- ❖ “be peaceable” ~ “**Peace officers / keep the peace**” / deescalate situations
- ❖ “be gentle” ~ help others / kind / considerate
- ❖ “showing all humility to all men” ~ all and all / “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons”

v3 ~ 7 Imperfections of the Non-Christian

- ❖ “foolish” ~ senseless / incapable of spiritual understanding
- ❖ “disobedient” ~ towards God and man
- ❖ “deceived” ~ thinking themselves free but slave to sin
- ❖ “serving various lusts and pleasures” ~ enslaved to them / bolder with time
- ❖ “living in malice and envy” ~ wicked and evil / want others to suffer
- ❖ “hateful” ~ offensive / disgusting / repulsive
- ❖ “hating one another” ~ natural result of cumulative character flaws

III: Before & After ~ Street evangelist / Heckler advocates science

- ❖ Challenge to return with transformed people (drunks, prostitutes)

Xition: Paul reminds Titus again in v8 of what Cretans are to do . . .

v8b ~ Good Works ~ “maintain good works ~ good and profitable to men”

- ❖ “those who have believed in God should .. maintain good works”
- ❖ “These things are good and profitable to men”
- ❖ But what is the biblical definition of “good works”?

What Are Prerequisites to a “Good Work”

1. We know they must be done in faith
 - ✧ Jesus will tell many, “I never knew you. Depart from Me.” (Mt 7.23)
 - ✧ “Good works are performed by Christians, not those wanting to become Christians”
2. We know that “good works” must flow from love (1 Cor 13.3)
 - ✧ “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”
 - ✧ Our motive must be right / Not guilt / pride / fear

Examples of Not So “Good Works”

- ❖ Not all the supposed “good works” of Christians will qualify (1 Cor 3.15)
 - ✧ “If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he will be saved”
- ❖ Jesus warned, “[D]o not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.” (Mt 6.1)
- ❖ Several more examples from Sermon on the Mount
 - ✧ He warned them to pray & fast in secret / not to be seen and admired
 - ✧ Receiving a prophet or giving a cup of cold water would lead to reward
 - ✧ Enduring criticism or persecution for Christ is rewarded (Lk 6.23)

“Expected Works” Don’t Count

- ❖ Also, we must do many things
 - ✧ As Christians we must tithe / Is tithing a good work?
 - ✧ As husbands or wives we must love our spouse / Is that a good work?
 - ✧ As parents we must provide for our children / Is parenting a good work?
- ❖ Good works are over and above what is absolutely required of us
- ❖ Jesus asked in **Luke 17.7-10** if master serves the servant first at meal times
 - ✧ “When you have done what you are commanded .. We have done our duty”

Xition: So what are biblical “good works”?

But What Are “Good Works”

- ❖ Good works flow from us / from our time, our talent, or our treasure
 1. We choose each day how to use 24 hours / 14,400 minutes / 86,400 seconds
 2. We choose each day how to employ our skills and for whom
 3. We choose each day how to spend our money / on ourselves or others
- ❖ When we use our time, talent or treasure on God or others in faith and love
 - ✧ And our motive is not tainted by pride, guilt, fear, or other sinful things
 - ✧ Then we may have done a “good work” that will survive the cleansing

But What About “good works” of non-Christians?

- ❖ Paul to **Romans 14.23** ~ “whatever is not from faith is sin”
 - ✧ Context is doubts pertaining to eating food dedicated to idols
 - ✧ Yet Paul shares a broad general principle to guide them
- ❖ Unbelievers can outwardly behave well / But not “good works”

3. Trinity ~ v4-6 ~ “What God Did” and “How God Did It”

v4-7 ~ “But when the kindness and the love .. His mercy He saved us”

- ❖ These 4 verses hold an entire sermon / Reflect character of Trinity
 - ✧ “But when the kindness and the love of **God our Savior** toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to **His mercy He** saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by **His grace** we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
- ❖ Roles of Father, Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ our Savior are clear
 - ✧ The Holy Spirit and Jesus are mentioned explicitly
 - ◇ But Father’s role is logically necessary
 - ✧ HS ~ Evident as the agent of regeneration and renewal
 - ✧ Jesus ~ Evident as the source of the regeneration and renewal
 - ✧ Father ~ Evident in orchestrating plan due to His:
 - ◇ “kindness, love, mercy, and grace”
- ❖ **Titus 3.4-7** is one of the best proof texts for the Trinity

Xition: We now turn to our last verse – verse 7 . . .

4. Cretans ~ v7 ~ “What Has Happened To Them”

v7a ~ “having been justified by His grace”

- ❖ They’ve been declared “just” by God and are free from condemnation

v7b ~ “we should become heirs”

- ❖ Cretans may just be learning their destiny
 - ✧ They’ve been saved from sin / Now they’re told of a glorious future
- ❖ III: House of Saud ~ 15k family / From birth they’re raised as royalty
 - ✧ We are royalty / **Read 1 Tim 6.14-16** “.. [K]eep this .. power. Amen”)

v7c ~ “according to the hope of eternal life”

- ❖ Jesus will reign forever / Not just for 20 or even 50 years
- ❖ We will rule / **Read 1 Cor 6.1-3** ~ “Dare any of you .. the church to judge”

- Titus was to reject divisive men to prevent them from causing damage
- He beautifully described God our Savior as “**kind, loving, merciful, and gracious**”
- He was to exhort, rebuke, and remind the Cretans of their salvation and duty
 - That from which they’d been saved / And their future destiny with God
- He reminded them of their eternal royal destiny
 - And now I’ve reminded you of all of that too . . .

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .

Titus 2:15-3:11 ~ Maintaining Morale ~ DCC ~ July 15, 2017

#1a **What Titus is to do**

15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

#2a **What they are to do**

1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

#2b **What they once were like**

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

#3 **What God has done for them**

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

#4 **What awaits them in heaven**

7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

#2c **What they are to do**

#1a

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

#1b **What Titus is not to do**

9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.