



*“The Importance of
Godly Living
Titus 3
August 31, 2014*

1. **Respect Authority** Vs 1a
2. **Ready to Act** Vs1b-2
3. **Remember Who You Once Were** Vs3
4. **Remember God’s Saving Grace** Vs 4-7
5. **Reminded of Your Mission** Vs 8
6. **Refute False Teachers and Respond to Factious Men**
Vs 9-11
7. **Recall Fellow Servants & Faithful Friends** Vs12-15

Our Response

- ✓ Have you clearly understood the Gospel this morning or this week that you need to become a Christ Follower? It’s as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner (You Need God’s Grace), **Ask** Him to Forgive All your Sins; **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son; **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!! **Your next step is Baptism...** Have you made that public and followed through with Baptism? If not, you can do that today as well.
- ✓ Be willing to step over the line this morning and be obedient in what He is calling you to do. Maybe it is join this church family and honor Him by **not attending but joining** His family and being a part of bringing the good news to our community and to the ends of the earth!
- ✓ May we be careful to respect those in authority especially those in government whether we agree with them or not and we should also pray for them as well. (Hard to do sometimes I know!!!)
- ✓ We need to remember what it was or recognize what it is to be lost and without hope and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ! It should motivate us so share the Saving Grace of Christ Jesus and what He did (See back to *Titus 2:11-14* or last week’s message as well)
- ✓ Spend some time thanking the Lord for your blessed salvation and that today you are an heir of Jesus Christ!!
- ✓ Take a look at the Ready to Act – Are these traits a part of your life as well as the other characteristics of a godly life we talked about in other messages?. Take a look back at those as well (www.petalfbc.com/sermons-medai) What area do you need the Lord to work on the most in your life?
- ✓ Does your life encourage others to live a godly life which part of is doing good deeds? Does our life inspire others to follow Christ?
- ✓ Be willing to refute to untrue teaching and respond to those who bring disunity and divisiveness to the Church.

INSIDE OUT

“The Importance of Godly Living”

Titus 3

August 31, 2014 AM Worship

It is one thing to talk about the Gospel and Jesus and it is important but to then live the truth with my daily actions is far more difficult but can have an even greater effect. Here Paul clearly has moved from inside the walls of the church and our lives individually to now outside the church and our clear call to take the Gospel to them by the way that we live and also that our talk matches our walk. And be reminded too that how we live this life, our conduct and our character, don't give us salvation, but instead the way we live comes from the fact that we are saved by the power of the gospel!

It is Christ's clear that we engage our culture and that we have the proper response to it. It is clearly a great balancing act to do this. We must be careful to stand firm on the Word of God and it's clear stand on the issues of our day, however we must not be a people who judge and condemn the very ones we are trying to reach. We must not become enemies of the very ones we are trying to win to Christ. God help us to strike this balance of love, grace, and mercy yet with great firmness of the truth of the Gospel.

1. **Respect Authority** (Vs 1a)

Be subject to rulers and authorities

To be obedient

Christians were often looked on with suspicion in the Roman Empire because their conduct was so different and they met in private meetings for worship. It was important that they be good citizens without compromising their faith. Their pagan neighbors might disobey the law but Christians must submit to the authority of the state (See Romans 13 & I Peter 2:13-17)

ILLUS: tickets in Baton Rouge and then 2nd ticket – I seem to have these troubles when I very first move to a new town!

It is not an option for a Christian. Does that mean that we cannot disagree or questions our government? NO way! But it's how we do it that counts. Now let's be clear too that there could come a time where the government goes against what the Word of God says is right. Yes,

and then we must stand against it but outside of that we must clearly follow the law. Jesus said so himself in the Gospel – give to Caesar’s what is Caesar’s. We forget what a great witness this is and can clearly set us apart.

2. Ready to Act (Vs. 1b-2)

Paul goes even further that we do these things to be ready to do every good work! That goes the distance – ready to go the 2nd mile – not just what is expected but beyond. Galatians 6:10 says, “While we have the opportunity, do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

ILLUS: I am reminded one of the things we do in times of disaster – good works – we help our neighbor which helps our government. And what do those good works look like – here Paul gives some clear examples.

- ✓ *Malign no one*, to speak evil of anyone. We get the word blaspheme to slander, curse, or treat with contempt or disrespect, even our enemies, especially our enemies. Now let’s be clear it doesn’t mean that we don’t call wrong, wrong and speak out against evil – it’s more how we do it. Every person is made in the image of God! Don’t speak evil of our leaders – If I speak against them I should spend at least as much time praying for them! We think we have it bad – they had Nero – hello!
- ✓ *To be uncontentious* – *one who fights or brawls*, instead we should be friendly and peaceful
- ✓ *Gentle*, moderate, fair, forbearing in treating others. An attitude of moderation, a sweet reasonableness. Strength under restraint – see not a fighter or brawler – uncontentious
- ✓ *Showing every consideration for all men* meekness, humility, kindness

3. Remember Who You Once Were (Vs 3)

Rather than resent lost people, understand we were once there.

Many of us were lost, although many of us were saved at a young age, so we cannot relate in a lot of ways, but yet we can because sin is disobedience and we are all guilty of that!

We forget far too easy what it felt like to be lost or what that would

mean for us.

- ✓ *We are once foolish ourselves*, a complete lack of understanding, total ignorance in regard to a particular area of knowledge.
- ✓ *Disobedient*
- ✓ *Deceived*, Purposely lead astray. Satan's trick to make them think they are really living ok, they live right.
- ✓ *Enslaved to various lusts and pleasures*
- ✓ *Spending our lives in malice*, evil, vicious character
- ✓ *Envy*
- ✓ *Hateful, Hating one another*

But really we can relate, because this is what we are all capable of on the inside, the focus is not so much on the outside but the inside. The inner cesspool of our sin capability.

Also because of these things that lost people will act and behave lost. Don't be surprised or hate them for it. In the same way don't judge them or criticize them or worse despise them or reject them, but instead may it break our hearts for them!

We really cannot appreciate the next point, unless we understand how much we really needed a Savior and still do! We were hopelessly separated from God forever without the mercy and grace of Jesus!

4. (Reflect) Remember God's Saving Grace (Vs 4-7) **BUT**

Again, we see another similar discourse on our salvation, much like the verses 11-14 found in chapter 2. It is all based on God, His initiative and His grace.

Bottom line is that God saved us. Good works are important to show our pagan culture the demonstration of the true gospel and have been strongly emphasized, however good works are the result, not the cause of the saving, transforming power of God's grace in one's life. **Charles Spurgeon said**, "Works of righteousness are the fruit of salvation, and the root must become before the fruit. The Lord saves His people by clear, unmixed, undiluted mercy and grace, and for no other reason."

Let's look at those aspects of salvation. What are they based on and what are the results.

- ✓ *His love for mankind*
- ✓ *The kindness of God our Savior*

- ✓ *According to His mercy, not based on our deeds*
- ✓ *He poured out on us richly*
- ✓ *Washing of regeneration* notice the washing and renewing happens at the same time. Not two different events.
- ✓ *Renewing by the Holy Spirit*
- ✓ *Justified* It is the gracious act of God whereby He declares a believing sinner righteous because of the finished work of Christ on the cross. God puts to our account the righteousness of His Son, so that we can be condemned no more. Not only does He forget our sins, but He forgets that we were even sinners!

The Result: We become heirs (heaven=eternal life)

What does it mean to be an heir? It means that you will get everything Jesus has! Think about if you are an heir to a great estate! That is why this is so incredible.

5. Reminded of Your Mission (Vs 8)

Speak confidently SO THAT those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds

True statement, concerning all that we have talked about, speak confidently about them. Folks, we know the truth!

The word engage or practice which literally means to stand in front of. The idea here was a shopkeeper standing in front of his shop, trying to sell his products by crying out to the public. What a great picture, is our life a place where people can look in and see all the God has done and know who we serve by “what we are selling”

Review of what we are to be about. We are to live in such a way that our culture can see that there is a difference. Doing what is right and good, not for our salvation but because of our obedience and love relationship with the Lord. Not only that but does my life inspire others to engage in good deeds? That is called influence!!

Why? *It is good and profitable for all men!* The by product or the “so that”, the world can see a true believer living the gospel out in the flesh.

6. Refute False Teachers and Respond to Factious Men (Vs 9-11)

FALSE TEACHERS

Shun — turn oneself around, to purposely turn away from

something or someone.

foolish controversies, fool comes from moros, we get moron
genealogies, strife, Disputes about the Law

Why? Because they are unprofitable and worthless

Don't waste your time arguing and messing with this stuff. It is a distraction to what we are to be about. Be about the things that really matter in life!

FACTIOUS MEN

Give a factious man 2 times, then put him out of the church.

Reject, have nothing to do with

This does not necessarily refer to false teachers, but to a person who causes factions.

Original word means to choose. What?

To signify the placing of self-willed opinions above the truth, reusing even to consider views contrary to one's own.

The factious person will not submit to the Word or to godly leaders in the church. He is a law to himself and has no true concern for spiritual truth and unity.

Paul is talking about anyone who would cause division in the church. It does not mean we don't have questions, concerns, problems, but the issue is how we deal with them.

Unity in divine truth and in spiritual fellowship is imperative for effective evangelism.

Genuine, godly love is the binding force of genuine spiritual unity and is an integral, divinely ordained part of our testimony before the world. Too many times we don't deal with these kinds of people as the Bible tells us too. Warn them twice, then after that put them out.

7. Recall Fellow Servants and Faithful Friends (Vs 12-15)

Don't forget those who are serving alongside you and church leaders.

We must all be part of the solution and meeting of needs. Cannot all be up to church staff or even church leaders, we must all carry our weight. There are many of you in our Church that lead and serve each week that get no recognition and that is what Christ has called us to do but let me do as Paul did here and not by name but let me say thank you for how you serve and love the Lord and His Church!