

Episode #402 Titus 3 Part 3: Good and Profitable Works – Radio Show #157

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. Titus has taught the leaders in Crete the behaviors they are to perform, and that they are to model to others. Then, we saw in chapter 3 that He gives what is to be the motivation for God's people to act this way. First of all is a realistic look at ourselves and what we were before He saved us. Then, His goodness and love for humanity that blazed forth to us as we understood it. We were saved by God's mercy, washed by regeneration and renewed by holy power. These things were poured on us richly at the time of our salvation through Jesus Christ our Savior. We are now justified by His grace, and have a portion in eonian life. Now we learn that these things are what motivates us.

III. Titus 3:8-11. Titus' teaching and behavior.

- A. Titus 3:8. One of Paul's "faithful sayings." The faithful sayings are I Timothy 1:15, I Timothy 3:1, I Timothy 4:9, II Timothy 2:11, and here. Faithful is from "faith." These things about our past and God's salvation of us Titus is to confidently assert. Why? To understand them personally, to spread them to others, and so that those who believe in God might be thoughtful to give attention to good works. Notice how anxious Paul is that God's people do things that are good in His sight. These are not the world's good works, but God's. John 6:29. Ephesians 2:10. These things are just plain good, and profitable (advantageous) for men, here meaning "mankind."
- B. Titus 3:9. Titus is not to get involved in stupid questions and debates. Also genealogies, which were important for Jews, but now that there is no difference between nations (Ephesians 3:6), being proven an Israelite is no longer an advantage. Others were contending and fighting about the law. Titus 1:14. These things are unprofitable and empty. See Ephesians 2:14-15.
- C. Titus 3:10. Heretic = *hairetikos*, means that he is a sectarian, a divisive person who wanted to break off and form their own little group. Titus is to warn such people twice, then reject them.
- D. Titus 3:11. Such a person is warped. He has the wrong values. He has sinned, being self-condemned. Note: he was condemned by rejecting the leader God gave him. Any of us who are not part of the "Holy Catholic Church" or Eastern Orthodox Church (which of these two is the first church might be debated) have come from some "sectarian" who broke off from the main group. There is nothing wrong with breaking off from error. This was bad because Titus had his place from God.

IV. In Paul's closing words to Titus about behavior, he gives him a "faithful saying" that those who believe should do good works. This is in light of all God has done for us. Titus is to avoid foolish arguments, and to reject sectarians. May we all maintain the good works, the "worthy walk," that God wants us to maintain!