

Episode #403 Titus 3 Part 4: Necessary Good Works

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. In chapter 3 Paul gives what is to be the motivation for God's people to act the way they should. 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. This motivates us to be careful to maintain good works. Now, we will consider Paul's closing words to Titus, and necessary good works.

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

- A. Titus 3:11. A sectarian 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. A denomination is really just a big sect, and a sect is just a small denomination. There is nothing wrong with breaking off from error. This was bad because Titus had his place from God.

IV. Titus 3:12-15. Closing words.

- A. Titus 3:12. Artemas and Tychicus appear to be part of Paul's entourage of followers.
 - 1. Artemas (Gift of Artemis, the goddess) appears to have been a follower of equal standing with Tychicus. He is mentioned nowhere else.
 - 2. Tychicus (Fateful) was from Asia (Acts 20:4). He delivered Ephesians, Ephesians 6:21-22, and he receives a glowing report there. He also delivered Colossians (Colossians 4:7), and receives another recommendation in that passage. We last hear of him in II Timothy 4:12, sent to Ephesus, where Paul was never again to visit (Acts 20:25 and 38). Probably Artemas or Tychicus are to replace Titus in his duties in Crete.
 - 3. Titus is to leave Crete and join Paul at Nicopolis. Nicopolis means "City of Victory." There were five cities with this name. This one probably in Epirus.
- B. Titus 3:13. These two also came with the letter, but were only passing through Crete to some other location. Titus was to speed them on their way, and provide them with supplies if needed.
 - 1. Zenas (Jupiter) the lawyer (an expert in Moses' law) is mentioned only here.
 - 2. Apollos (Given by Apollo) was from Alexandria in Egypt. He is familiar from Acts 18:24-19:1. Also Paul discusses him in I Corinthians 3:4-6, 22; 4:6; and 16:12. This is the last we hear of him. He has become part of Paul's company.
- C. Titus 3:14. "Our people" refers to the believers under Titus' care (perhaps Jewish believers?) In our country, we worry more about our wants than our needs, but not so then. Can be good works for necessary duties. Our goal as believers should be to bear fruit for God. Being careful to maintain necessary good works keep us from the opposite of this: being unfruitful.

D. Titus 3:15. All Paul's entourage greet Titus. Titus was to share this greeting with all who loved Paul and his company in their shared faith in Christ. Paul closes with his typical salutation, "grace be with you all." Amen!

V. Conclusion: In Paul's closing words to Titus, he reveals that he will soon send replacements for Titus in his work in Crete. The two who delivered this letter he is to bring on their way. His final instructions are to maintain good works in those things that are necessary duties, and not to be unfruitful. May we all as well maintain the good works, the "worthy walk," that God wants us to maintain!