

## **“CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS”**

**Titus 3:1-8**

### **Introduction:**

- 1. Titus, a Greek, was Paul’s “son in the faith” (Titus 1:4).**
- 2. Paul left him in Crete to “set in order the things that are lacking.”**
  - a. Elders must be appointed to shepherd the churches.**
  - b. Heresies must be opposed and factious men rebuked.**
  - c. Members must be taught that they may be sound in the faith.**
- 3. Soundness in the faith is more than believing right doctrine.**
  - a. Going to Heaven requires more than being baptized and going to church every Sunday.**
  - b. It requires a continual effort to become like Jesus.**
  - c. It requires putting away the sins and pleasures of the world.**
  - d. It also requires doing good works to the glory of God.**
- 4. We must “be careful to maintain good works.”**

### **Discussion:**

- I. CHRISTIANS MUST BE REMINDED OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS (1,2).**
  - A. We must be “subject to rulers and authorities.”**
    - 1. Government is instituted by God for man’s well-being (Romans 13:1-7).**
    - 2. God does not approve of every government nor of every leader, but requires our obedience (1 Peter 2:13-15).**
    - 3. We must disobey when rulers require that which is contrary to God’s will (Acts 5:28,29).**
  - B. We must be “ready for every good work.”**
    - 1. Some are ready to oppose every good work proposed.**
    - 2. We should look for opportunities to serve and do good.**

**C. We must “speak evil of no one.”**

- 1. “Speak evil” is from the Greek word for “blaspheme.”**
- 2. This does not prohibit naming evil-doers (2 Tim. 2:17,18).**
- 3. It does forbid slander, gossip, cursing, making malicious and false accusations, etc.**

**D. We must be “peaceable” (not contentious - ASV).**

- 1. The Greek word is “amachos,” meaning “not manly.”**
- 2. Christians will not go around looking for a fight but will seek to “live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).**

**E. We must be “gentle.”**

- 1. The Greek word describes one who is a gracious, winsome, sweet-spirited person.**
- 2. It is the opposite of one who is “pushy” and rude.**

**F. We must “show all humility to all men.”**

- 1. Some translations use “meekness” rather than humility.**
- 2. Moses was said to be “the meekest man in all the earth,” yet he was a great leader of God’s people (Num. 12:3).**

**II. CHRISTIANS MUST BE REMINDED OF WHAT WE ONCE WERE (3).**

**A. Before we became Christians, we were foolish.**

- 1. The Greek word simply means “without understanding.”**
- 2. The one who denies the existence of his Creator is a fool” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).**

**B. Before we became Christians, we were disobedient.**

- 1. One who rejects God’s will is in rebellion against God.**
- 2. It describes one who stubbornly refuses to obey God.**

**C. Before we became Christians, we were deceived.**

1. One who is deceived is under the influence of false teaching, but is not aware of it.
  2. God allows those who do not love the truth to believe a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).
- D. Before we became Christians, we served “various lusts and pleasures.”
1. The word for “serving” means “to be enslaved.”
  2. “Pleasures” refer to the gratification of one’s sinful lusts.
- E. Before we became Christians, we practiced malice, envy and hate.
1. “Malice” describes a mean-spirited, vicious disposition.
  2. “Envy” describes one’s jealousy over others’ prosperity.
  3. “Hateful” describes a way of life that looks down on other people, detesting them; it results in hating others.

### **III. CHRISTIANS MUST NOT FORGET WHAT CHANGED OUR LIVES (4-7).**

- A. God’s kindness and love toward man appeared.
1. God showed great kindness by providing the Savior for man’s sins.
  2. He showed His love for us even when we were in rebellion against Him (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10).
- B. God saved us by His mercy (compassion).
1. It was not because we had done anything that deserved His intervention on our behalf.
  2. There are three kinds of works mentioned in the N.T.
    - a. The works of the Law of Moses cannot save (Romans 3:20).
    - b. Works of our own devising cannot save (Titus 3:5).
    - c. Works of obedience to God’s commands do save (Hebrews 5:9; James 2:21-26).

- C. God saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.**
- 1. The Greek word translated as “regeneration” means “born again.”**
  - 2. Jesus told Nicodemus: “...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5)**
  - 3. Christ gave Himself for the church (the saved) “that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:25,26).**
    - a. One is born of the Spirit when the Spirit through His word begets faith in his heart (Ephesians 6:17; Romans 10:17).**
    - b. One is born of the water when he is baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).**
- D. God justified us through His grace.**
- 1. We are justified (declared righteous) by obedience to the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16,17).**
  - 2. We could never pay the price for our sins.**
  - 3. We do not deserve God’s intervention for us by providing the Savior.**
  - 4. The basis of our salvation is grace, but it is received by an obedient faith (Hebrews 5:9; Mark 16:15,16).**
- E. The result of God’s justifying us by grace is that we are “heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2).**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. We who believe in God must “be careful to maintain good works.”**
- 2. Our works (acts of obedience) reveal the faith and love we have in our hearts (Galatians 5:6).**
- 3. The everyday, ordinary acts of kindness, charity and goodness toward others really reveal whether we are saved or not.**
- 4. Have you accepted God’s grace through “the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit?”**

