

## Titus

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### Lesson 3: Titus 3

In Matthew 12:33, Jesus said, “for the tree is known by its fruit.” If you were to look at an apple tree and all you saw on it were rotten apples, you would conclude that something was wrong with that tree. Why? Because a healthy tree will produce good fruit, but an unhealthy tree will produce bad fruit. In chapter 3, Paul tells Titus that the church is to do good deeds that reflect the salvation we have been given. Although Christians are not perfect, our good deeds should reflect the salvation that we have been given by Christ as we live in this world. Unbelievers should be able to look at our lives and notice that there is a difference between us and the people of the world they encounter. As they notice our good deeds, this will be an effective tool for evangelism and bring glory to God. Let’s dive in and see what Paul has to say about our good deeds.

➤ **Read Titus 3:1–3**

1. In verse 1, Paul commands Titus to give the church reminders. Why does the Bible emphasize the ministry of reminder?

2. In verse 1, Paul gives three “to be” statements in relation to governing authorities. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. In verse 2, what four instructions does Paul give regarding our relationship to unbelievers?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** How would following the above instructions make a Cretan stand out in society (see 1:12)?

4. In verse 3, what seven ways does Paul describe our lives before Christ saved us?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** How does a remembrance of your former life affect your current life in Christ?

➤ **Read Titus 3:4–8**

5. In verse 4, what are the two ways Paul describes God’s saving activity?

6. In whom did God’s kindness and love appear?

7. In verse 5, Paul emphasizes that God is the one who saved us in the past. He then gives the basis of our salvation negatively (“not”) and positively (“but”). What is the negative and positive basis of our salvation?

Negative:

Positive:

**Application:** Notice Paul says in verse 5, “He saved us.” Many modern evangelical altar calls tell people to, “Ask Jesus into your heart,” and Christian testimonies will say something like, “I accepted Jesus as my Savior.” What would Paul say about that altar call and testimony?

8. In verse 6, who is the “whom”? Who is the “He”? Through whom do we receive the Holy Spirit? What does this verse show about the Godhead in salvation?

9. According to verse 7, how is a person justified?

10. According to verse 8, what is Paul’s desire for believers?

**Application:** How do the “good deeds” of verse 8 relate to the salvation message of verses 5–7? Why is this important?

➤ **Read Titus 3:9–11**

11. According to verse 9, what is Titus commanded to avoid? Why?

12. According to verses 10–11, what is Titus to do with a divisive man?

**Application:** What dynamics in many modern churches make the application of verses 9–11 unlikely to be obeyed by the church leadership?

➤ **Read Titus 3:12–15**

13. How does verse 12 show Paul's care for the churches in Crete?

14. In verse 13, what is Titus commanded to do?

15. In verse 14, what does the church need to learn?

**Application:** The theme of “good deeds” has dominated this letter (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 5, 8, 14). Why are good deeds important for the Christian life both outside the church and within the church?

**Application:** What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.