

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Titus 3:8-11

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Titus 3:8-11

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

⁸The saying is trustworthy,

and I want you to insist on these things,

so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

These things are excellent and profitable for people.

⁹But avoid foolish controversies,

genealogies,

dissensions,

and quarrels about the law,

for they are unprofitable

and worthless.

¹⁰As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice,

have nothing more to do with him,

¹¹knowing that such a person is warped

and sinful;

he is self-condemned.

1. In verse 8, what is “the saying” referring to? What do “these things” refer to?
2. Why does Paul say that the saying is “trustworthy?” Why is it important for believers to remind themselves of the trustworthiness of Scripture and the Gospel?

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3. What does Paul's use of the term "insist" tell us about his attitude regarding this charge? Why might he use this strong word?
4. In verse 8b, what is the goal of Titus's teaching supposed to be? What is the ground or reason for this goal?
5. What type of people are told to devote themselves to good works? Why? (See Titus 3:1-7)
6. How are good works "profitable" for people? (You may also read 1 Timothy 4:6-10)
7. Why do you think Paul says that believers ought to "be careful" to devote themselves to good works? Why not just say "so that those who have believed in God may devote themselves to good works?"

❖ Day 2

Read Titus 3:8-11 again.

8. What does Paul warn Titus to avoid in verse 9? What reason does he give for this?
9. Why would Paul use the terms "unprofitable" and "worthless" rather than something like "sinful" or "corrupted?"

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Sermon Study Equipping Class

10. What contrast is Paul making in verses 8-9?
11. Looking back at verses 8 and 9, what are the two things Paul wants Titus to do? What does this tell us of Paul's expectations of leaders in the church?
12. What are some examples of "foolish controversies" that we are tempted to engage in today?
13. In verse 10, what particular issue does Paul address?
14. Paul has already spoken strongly on the topic of worthless speech and those that practice it (see, for example, Titus 1:10-16). Why does he bring the topic up again here?

❖ Day 3

Read Titus 3:8-11 again.

15. What are the steps Paul gives for dealing with a divisive person? How does this relate to other passages of Scripture regarding church discipline? (Read, for instance, Matthew 18:15-20)
16. What are the grounds or reason that Paul gives in verse 11 for rejecting a divisive person?

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17. What does it mean for a person to be “self-condemned?” How are we to know whether or not a person is self-condemned?

18. What would it look like to warn a divisive person in the church, specifically at Summit Woods? What would you define as “divisive” in a person, or how would you determine what divisiveness warrants warnings and discipline?

19. What different examples, if any, have you seen of warning and/or excommunicating a divisive person at other churches? Was it done biblically? Why or why not?

20. How can you apply Paul’s instructions in this passage to your own life and life in the church?

21. In 20 words or less, summarize this passage in your own words.

In preparation for Sunday, pray that God would stir your heart towards good works as you set your eyes on things above, where Christ is, rather than on the controversies and vain pursuits of the world here below.