

Scripture Text

Titus 3:1-15

Context

Throughout this letter, Paul exhorts Titus to keep the Gospel central in the family of God. He is to appoint sound godly leaders who are tender and firm to nurture and protect this family. He is to lead this family to live and apply the Gospel in the details of everyday life. Here, Titus is to ensure that the integrity of the Gospel would be displayed through the church's devotion to good works for the sake of witnessing faithfully to the world for Christ.

Observation and Meaning

- List all the instructions given in this passage for Christians. What do they tell us about God's purpose for His people?
- Read verse 3 to 7 carefully. What does it tell us about our salvation? How does it affect the way we follow the instructions in this letter as Christians?
- Some things are "excellent and profitable" (verse 8) and some things are "unprofitable and worthless" (verse 9). How do we tell them apart? How do we pursue the right things?
- Why are Christians called to "devote themselves to good works" (verse 8 and 14)?

Big Idea

God's grace makes us a godly, faithful and winsome people who would witness to the world His goodness through our words, lives and deeds.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

While we were foolish, disobedient and lost in the passions of sin, God's kindness and love appeared to us through Jesus our Saviour. We are saved not by our good works, but by His mercy and therefore for the good works that He has prepared for us to live for.

Sermon Outline:

1. So, what do we have to do?
2. It is not about what we do
3. It is all about what we do

Application

- How can we at RHC be holy and serve all people without coming off as being "holier than thou" or thinking of ourselves as superior?
- What have you done to deserve the salvation and blessing promised to you in Christ? How does this motivate you to good works, including telling everyone about God's grace?
- How do you determine if a debate or dispute is foolish and unprofitable? What are some examples you have encountered among Christians, and how should we respond?
- How can we be loving, fruitful, firm and godly even when we have disagreements at RHC?
- Instead of things that are unprofitable, what good works are we to devote ourselves to as individuals and as a church?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.