



“FOR GOODNESS SAKE” (Titus 3)

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Intro: There is one very clear theme in this final chapter. Did you see it? (vv.1, 8, 13-14). The Christian life is marked by submission to God ordained authority, godly conversation, humility, and a desire to live at peace with all men. But if we stopped there, we would miss one of the greatest aspects of being a disciple of Jesus Christ – a devotion to doing good. See Acts 10:38; Matthew 5:14-16; I Peter 2:11-12.

GOOD DEEDS ARE EVIDENCE OF GENUINENESS

- James 2:14-18; I John 3:16-20a

THE MOST BASIC GOOD DEED - \$ GIFTS FOR KINGDOM CAUSES

- I have to assume that some of the needs Zenas & Apollos had were financial. They were obviously setting out on a mission for the Lord. How would Titus provide them with what they needed? No doubt he went to the church, let the need be known, and allowed the people to respond.
- Parable of the talents, note Matthew 25:26-27
- Acts 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
- Luke 6:38; II Cor.8:1-7; 9:12-15; Eph.4:28; Luke 16:8b-13
- Whenever grace is flowing in the life of a Christian, giving is a natural fruit. And when grace is flowing in the life of a local church, giving is a natural fruit. See Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-27.
- Phil.4:17; Let people know of the ongoing opportunity to give to the special needs fund, then tell them about the mission Colombia need. Originally we were going to be working in El Salvador with CC San Salvador through Potter’s Field Ranch. Well into several months of planning, they discovered that our dates were over an exam weekend for school (LIKE SAT’s). The Lord opened a new door through our missionaries in Colombia (Ron & Debbie Stafford), but this trip is going to cost the team \$3,000 more. Why don’t we meet their need?

GOOD DEEDS THAT GET ME PERSONALLY INVOLVED

- Acts 9:36-39; I Tim.5:10; Jesus got personally involved in serving/doing good; Washed his disciples feet; Mark 10:45.

- Do you know who the Bible says are to be a priority in us doing good for? See Gal.6:9; By this shall all men know that you are my disciples...
- Two ministries whose main purpose is doing good in very practical ways, and primarily for fellow believers, is Women of Heart & Men of Arms.
- WOH - About a year ago someone from Calvary met an elderly woman at the apt complex where he was working as a security guard. She was having trouble with one of her lights. She is an 89 year old widow and had no one else to call for help. He invited her to church and began driving her each week. WHO ladies have given her rides to the doctor, visited & prayed with her, and done house hold chores and run misc. errands. Every time we speak she shares how Calvary Chapel has impacted her through meeting her needs. She thought she was going to die alone. She has no children and all of her family and friends have passed away. She suffers from macular degeneration and she uses a walker or wheelchair to get around. She came to faith in Christ as a child and she sings hymns and speaks scripture in every conversation. I mean EVERY conversation. It was no coincidence that the man working at the guard station the night she called led her to our church. You need to know that she has impacted the lives of those who have helped her. She has an incredible ministry of prayer for those that she comes in contact with. I am so encouraged each time we speak whether in person or over the phone. People may think we are helping her but she is ministering to us as well.
- MOA – Recently got a call from my friend Lionel Cabral (Haven of Rest Mission) thanking me for MOA putting a roof on the home of a 92 year old lady; Helped a couple in our church move, as a result the husband got involved with MOA. The couple knew a man who desperately needed a new roof on his mobile home, but had no means to have it done. MOA did the roof just before tropical storm Debbie hit; Code enforcement officer for Pinellas county will occasionally call us with needs that we respond to, in the name of Jesus. He recently called about a guy who's in a nursing home, and his yard was in disarray. The code enforcement officer was ordered by his boss to fine him for his yard, which he did. But the man had no means to pay the fine, so he took his issue to court, asking for mercy in light of his situation. The judge granted extended time and told the officer to seek whatever means he could to help. The officer prayed to the Lord for direction/guidance. Enter MOA. Friday June 29th MOA did everything needed to get the yard back into compliance with code. Frank Dehn wrote me this email: "This morning as we were doing the yard work for the guy in the nursing home I told you about yesterday, the Code Inspector showed up . He started crying, told me a story of how 3yrs ago he and 211 other county employees were fired because of budget cuts. He said he prayed and asked the Lord to make a way for him to get his job back and that he promised the Lord he would strive to help people and do all he could for them so they would not get fined. Pastor Frank Dehn is going to visit the man in the nursing home next week.

SPECIFIC GOOD DEEDS WITH OUR NAME ON THEM

- See Ex.31:3; 35:31, 34; 36:1-2; Eph.2:10 (God's poiema, poem); 4:16
- It is fascinating to me that no two snowflakes are exactly alike, and that no two fingerprints are the same. What an amazing God! Each one of us was created uniquely, and with a divine purpose...
- Esther was created with stunning natural beauty, for a divine purpose; George Whitfield's natural abilities, etc. God has made some of us rich (I Tim.6:17-19).
- Acts 13:2; Col.4:17

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL TO FULFILL THE WORK GOD ASSIGNED TO ME?

- See Esther 4:14; Rev.3:11

HOW DO I DISCOVER AND DO THE GOOD WORKS GOD HAS PREPARED FOR ME?

- Delight yourself in the Lord (Psalm 37:4-7; II Cor.8:5)
- Do what's in front of you (Eccl.9: 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.); Eph.5:16; Col.4:5.
- Be faithful (Gal.6:9)

CONCLUSION

- One night I had a wondrous dream, one set of footprints there were seen, the footprints of my precious Lord. But mine were not along the shore. But then some strange prints appeared, and I asked the Lord, "What have we here?" Those prints are large and round and neat, but lord, they are too big for feet. "My child," he said in somber tones, "For miles I carried you alone. I challenged you to walk by faith, but you refused and made me wait. You disobeyed, you would not grow, the walk of faith you would not know. So I got tired, I got fed up, and there I dropped you on your butt. Because in life there comes a time, when one must fight, and one must climb, when one must rise and take a stand, or leave their butt prints in the sand."
- John 9: 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.