

Week 7: Devoted 2 Good

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:1-5, 9-11, 14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, June 11

Be ready for every good work; slander no one, avoid fighting, and be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another.

When the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us... So avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless. Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning. For you know that such a person has gone astray and is sinning; he is self-condemned...

Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

Theme: *We can be devoted to good because good has been shown to us.*

Week 7 Icebreaker: If you could pass on one piece of advice to your kid or grandkid, what would it be?

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that we will not be unfruitful. Amen

Titus Overview:

In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

- How have you seen this summary played out through Titus?
- What have been some of ideas/themes from Titus that have resonated with you?
- What were some of your struggles through this book? How did the small group help you wrestle with your concerns?
- Our overall theme has been, “Devoted to Good.” What does that mean to you?
- How has meeting together as a small group helped you gain a deeper understanding of Titus, and develop your faith?

Quick Review: Read Titus 3:1-5, 9-11, 14 and answers the following questions, quickly.

- What practical advice does Paul give on how to be devoted to good (ready for every good work)?
- What characterizes a person’s life before they were saved (before they experienced the kindness of the savior)?
- As follower of Jesus, devoted to good, what type of things should we avoid?

- What do you think it means to reject a divisive person and might that be beneficial?
- How will being devoted to good help you be fruitful?

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE: Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing major themes, questions you have and ways to apply the message to your life.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message?
- What were key points in the message and how did they connect to the major theme?
- How did this week's message touch on the series theme, Devoted to Good?
- Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

GOOD WORKS: This week's passage begins and ends with good works.

Be ready for every good work..., Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works.

- When you hear the term "good works" what comes to your mind? Does "good works" have a positive or negative connotation?
- Why do you think Paul continues to highlight this idea of good works?
- How does a person's actions, their good works, shape their witness for Jesus in their community?
- How have you seen your good works share your witness to your family, friends, coworkers, and others?

INTERACT: Read Titus 3:1-2, 9-10, 14. Underline all the ways you are to express good work and circle all the things you are to avoid

Be ready for every good work, to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people... But avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless. Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning... Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What are the ways to express good works?
- What are the things we are to avoid?

- The list of ways to express good works looks simple but can be quite difficult. What are the challenges we face in expressing our good works?
- How do you struggle in expressing these good works?
- The list of things to avoid can seem overwhelming. Why do you think the avoidance list is much longer?
- Which of the things to avoid do you find difficult? Why?

A DIVISIVE PERSONS:

Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning. For you know that such a person has gone astray and is sinning; he is self-condemned...

- Have you ever had an experience with a divisive person in the church? What type of problems did that create?
- What steps should be taken before rejecting them? Why do you think that is?
- Why should we reject a divisive person?
- How might rejecting them be the best thing for others and for them?

Paul's strategy is not his own. He is following the instructions Jesus gave in Matthew 18: 15-17

"If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he won't listen, take one or two others with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established. If he doesn't pay attention to them, tell the church. If he doesn't pay attention even to the church, let him be like a Gentile and a tax collector to you.

- How does Jesus' instructions compare to Paul's? What additional instructions does Jesus provide?

Jesus's final instruction for Divisive people is to treat them like a gentile or tax collector. That might seem harsh, until you remember how Jesus treated them. Jesus extended them love and compassion to help them see the error of their ways and to guide them back into relationship with his Heavenly Father.

- How might treating a divisive person as Jesus treats all sinners bring redemption and healing?

DEVOTED TO GOOD: We are to show good because good has been shown to us.

Titus 3:3-5 For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy,

- How did God extend kindness to us?
- Why do we not deserve God's kindness? *Circle all of the ways we once were.*
- How does this list shape the way you view yourself?
- How does this list remind us of our need for a savior?
- How should this list inspire us to see others?

Since we are saved from the enslaved passions and pleasures of our sinful life, that should inspire us to be devoted to good. We were all foolish, disobedient, and deceived. It is only by God's kindness and mercy that we have been set free and the only reason we can be devoted to good.

TITUS WRAP-UP: I hope that our time through Titus has been encouraging to you. Through this series we have explored God's calling for us to be faithful followers, devoted to God. Take some time to flip back through this study and reflect on things you have learned and ways you have been challenged.

- What were some highlights during this series?
- Is there a key verse, phrase, or theme that will stick with you after this series concludes?
- Do you have any struggles or concerns about this letter or the themes we have discussed?
- How has this study through Titus guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good?

SMALL GROUPS CONCLUSION: Small groups will be taking a break over the summer. We are so glad that you have taken the time to be a part of a group and we look forward to them returning in September.

- Are you interested in being in a small group in the Fall?
- Is there someone you would like to invite to small groups when they return?

TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Are there any things you would like to add to the small group experience when they return?
- Are there any ways the small group can continue to encourage you to being devoted to good while on break?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.