



LESSON 7: THE WHY BEHIND DOING GOOD | TITUS 3: 3-15

Lesson seven will wrap up our walk through this letter from the Apostle Paul to the young pastor, Titus. With these last few verses we see Paul's last instructions and final warm greetings to people he loves. Paul reminds them to do good works but not because they save us but because of how much God loves us. It's God's love that changes us and there is nothing more powerful and inspiring than seeing first hand life change. Paul reminds us all of how far away from God we once were and how great it is to be forgiven and called a child of God. It is this forgiveness power that fuels life change and becomes an infection for good. We do good works in this life because we are forgiven, freed people, and others need to find this way of life, and it starts with a relationship with God.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

In this lesson, we want students to understand the why behind doing good works. To not just obey but to truly know why we should help and do good in our lives. The doing good and not evil in our lives is because of what God has done for us and when we fully grasp that our actions of good come as a reaction to how great God is and how much he loves and forgives us.

LESSON OVERVIEW

In this lesson, we will look at Paul's final instructions to Titus for how Christians are to live and do good in this world. Paul reminds us that this good works come from God and we don't do it to save our lives but rather we do good works because of what God has already done for us. When we focus on where we came from and what God is doing in our lives, our only response should be to pay it forward and tell the world how great God is through our actions, good deeds and genuine love for others. When we do this we shine God's love for all to see.

BIBLE PASSAGES

The following passages will be covered in this lesson. Read through them, and use the margin to take notes.

Teaching Group 1: James 2:14-17

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

Teaching Group 2: Ephesians 2:8-9

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Small Group Passage: Titus 3: 3-15(NLT)

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But—

When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone. Do not get involved in foolish discussions about spiritual pedigrees or in quarrels and fights about obedience to Jewish laws. These things are useless and a waste of time. If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them. For people like that have turned away from the truth, and their own sins condemn them. I am planning to send either Artemas or Tychicus to you. As soon as one of them arrives, do your best to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to stay there for the winter. Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos with their trip. See that they are given everything they need. Our people must learn to do good by meeting the urgent needs of others; then they will not be unproductive. Everybody here sends greetings. Please give my greetings to the believers—all who love us. May God's grace be with you all.

PAUSE AND REFLECT

TEACHING FROM THE HEART

After reading these passages, I feel God is teaching me, challenging me, convicting me...

Teaching Group 1: James 2: 14-17 (NLT)

Teaching Group 2: Ephesians 2: 8-9 (NLT)

Small Group Passage: Titus 3: 3-15 (NLT)

Is your heart ready to teach this lesson? If no, what will it take to get your heart right to teach?

Now that you're done, look through your above thoughts and make which ones you feel may be appropriate (should the opportunity arise) to teach, communicate or share with your small group.

TEACHING GUIDE

Starting Out

Begin the lesson by helping your students generate some thoughts about the theme of the lesson. Use the following fill-ins to assist you. Feel free to allow some discussion.

Tonight were going to end our look at Titus with the question **why?**
Why do we do good works? Do our actions matter? Should we strive to do good in this world? And if so why?

Why do you try to do good? Can you give an answer?

Teaching Groups “Study”

This is the time for you to break your C-group into two different groups. Make the groups “random” and see to it that these groups change each week. Give the following instructions to your C-Group:

As you break into groups, don't sit with the groups - LET YOUR STUDENTS DEAL WITH THE PASSAGE ON THEIR OWN. After a couple of minutes, you should walk around to check on and help each group.

Teaching Groups “Teach”

Have each group give their “presentation” and summary; don't let the other students in the group be disruptive. Since you may experience a degree of CHAOS once the TEACHING GROUPS are done sharing. I suggest you take a few moments to wrap up each passage (you can either do this after each group is done, or after both of them have finished). This will allow you to highlight the important points from each passage and relate them to the theme of the night's lesson.

SMALL GROUP TIME

Use your small group time to a) discuss the Bible passage and answer any questions, b) make personal applications, and c) share prayer requests and pray.

Bible Study and Discussion

Read Small Group Passage: Titus 3:3-5 (NLT)

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But – When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone. Do not get involved in foolish discussions about spiritual pedigrees or in quarrels and fights about obedience to Jewish laws. These things are useless and a waste of time. If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them. For people like that have turned away from the truth, and their own sins condemn them. I am planning to send either Artemas or Tychicus to you. As soon as one of them arrives, do your best to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to stay there for the winter. Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos with their trip. See that they are given everything they need. Our people must learn to do good by meeting the urgent needs of others; then they will not be unproductive. Everybody here sends greetings. Please give my greetings to the believers—all who love us. May God's grace be with you all. Titus 3: 3-15

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Does anything in this passage seem weird or doesn't make sense?
2. What does Paul say we all used to be? What were we slaves to? And what were we full of?
3. According to Paul, what did God our savior reveal?
4. What does God give us confidence in?
5. According to Paul, what things are useless and a waste of time?
6. What does devoting yourself to doing good mean to you?

7. Why do you think these teachings are “good and beneficial for everyone”?
8. What does Paul say our people must learn to do?

.APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think there is a difference between foolish and disobedient? Explain
2. What are all thing things that Paul says we once were slaves to and were apart of our lives? What was the end result of this past life, when it came to relationships with others?
3. Can you give a definition for mercy? What is Paul’s definition in the passage? What does that mean to you now? In your life?
4. Paul says that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good; do you think that is true? Is that something you are doing in your life? Is that some thing you are doing in some areas of your life, but not in all areas? How do you change that?
5. According to Paul how should you treat someone who is causing divisions? Is this easy? How have you dealt with divisions in your life? Is it easy to forgive? Is it easier to move on?
6. How well do you do what Paul instructs in meeting people urgent needs? Can you think of anyone in your life right now that has an urgent need? Are you trying to meet it?
7. Paul says we should meet needs so we aren’t unproductive, what do you think he means by this? In what ways would you be honest and say you are unproductive? What are some areas of your life right now that you are being productive? What are some areas you could improve on?