

Equipped to Serve

Read: Titus 3:1-15

Main Idea: God's kindness through Jesus Christ not only redeems us from our past but equips us to do good in the world, showcasing His love in our actions.

Key Verses: “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.” **(3:4-5)**

Key Principles:

- Believers must live distinctively in society, submitting to authorities and pursuing good works as a reflection of God's order, countering cultural corruption.
- Recalling our pre-conversion life of foolishness and sin fosters humility and compassion, reminding us that transformation comes solely from God's mercy.
- Salvation is God's initiative through Christ, marked by regeneration and the Holy Spirit's renewal, reversing our natural tendencies toward evil.
- Justification by grace secures our inheritance and eternal hope, commissioning us to devote ourselves to good works that benefit everyone.
- Church unity requires avoiding foolish controversies and addressing divisive people firmly, protecting the community's witness.
- Engaging in excellence involves supporting gospel workers and learning to meet urgent needs, ensuring fruitful lives that adorn sound doctrine.

Discussion:

1. How does this passage challenge the church to model submission to authorities amid cultural tensions like political division or moral decline?
2. In what ways can remembering our past lives of sin cultivate humility and gentleness toward unbelievers in daily interactions?
3. When has experiencing God's kindness in salvation motivated you to pursue good works that reflect His character to others?
4. Considering regeneration's role in changing us, how can we rely on the Holy Spirit's renewal to overcome lingering sinful tendencies?
5. How do stories of dealing with division inspire us to promote unity, fostering thankfulness for God's redemptive work?
6. Why does pursuing excellence in good works prepare us for fruitful service, and how might deepening our eternal hope reflect Christ's love in action?

Prayer:

- Pray for grace to equip believers in pursuing good works within society.
- Pray for
 - Peaceful conduct in society, countering past enslavement to sin with humility.
 - Renewal through the Holy Spirit that justifies us as heirs with eternal hope.
 - Avoidance of foolish divisions and fruitful support for gospel ministry.

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Titus 3:1-15

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| I. | We must be <u>ready</u> for good works. | 3:1- |
| 1. | <u>Surrender</u> who you <u>are</u> . | 3:1-2 |
| 2. | <u>Remember</u> who you <u>were</u> . | 3:3 |
| II. | We have been <u>saved</u> for good works. | 3:4-8 |
| 1. | God <u>cares</u> for us. | 3:4 |
| 2. | God <u>changes</u> us. | 3:5-6 |
| 3. | God <u>commissions</u> us. | 3:7-8 |
| III. | We must be <u>unified</u> for good works. | 3:9-15 |
| 1. | <u>Avoid</u> the <u>foolish</u> . | 3:9 |
| 2. | <u>Deal</u> with <u>division</u> . | 3:10-11 |
| 3. | <u>Engage</u> in <u>excellence</u> . | 3:12-15 |

NEXT WEEK:
The King's Heart
Luke 19:28-44