

Titus 3:3–8

"Careful to Maintain Good Works by God's Grace in Our Past, Present, & Future"

How can you maintain good works without becoming a legalist? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these six verses, we learn that God's grace to us in our, present, and future provides a bevy of reasons that Christians "must constantly affirm that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain Good works."

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Titus 3 verses 3 through 8. These are God's words. For we ourselves we're also once foolish. Disobedient deceived serving various loss and pleasures. Living in malice and envy. Hateful and hating one another. But. When the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared. Not by works of righteousness, which we had done.

But according to his mercy he saved us. Through the washing of regeneration. And the renewing of the Holy Spirit. Whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. That. Having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope. Of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.

And these things I want you to affirm constantly. That those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good. And profitable to men. So far the reading of God's inspired and during toward.

So the last verse verse 8. Says this is a faithful saying and these things I want you to affirm constantly. That those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. Now one of the things that you guys may be aware of because you have heard me talk about it, but hopefully you haven't actually experienced yourself.

Is that there are many churches and many preachers. Many Christians in this one, you probably have experienced even with other people in your own church. Who? Do not like it. What someone affirms constantly that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. Not just that believers do good works but the believers should be careful to maintain them that we should think a lot about and focus on and work hard at doing good works.

And this is something that our preachers and our teachers should affirm constantly that they should be constantly reminding us. That those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. If you just took that part of Titus chapter 3 verse 8 and set it to somebody in almost any purportedly.

Christian church, you would certainly have people who said that's legalism. Being careful to obtain good works and constantly affirming that people should be careful to maintain good works. But yes, absolutely. Because that is one of the parts of the teaching of the gospel what's important however is to know why and how Christians do good works and Christians do good works not because they hope to earn salvation from God but because in their salvation God has given them a sure hope of eternal life.

And good works are part of that eternal life, what do you think eternal life is living forever or someone who continues to sin? Is that eternal life. No that would be prolonged death. Living as in a dead way and a wicked way is not the hope of eternal life that we have been given the hope that Jesus has earned for us is not just that we would be forgiven for our emotion but that we would be cleansed from it and that one day soon we would not have to deal with our sin anymore, but we would be godly.

And. He has already give us to start living more and more unto him and less and less unto sin. So the apostle in the passage before us tells us from where we have come and how we got to where we are and that we are sure of where we are going.

When we learn about where from where we have come we don't want to do anything that belongs to from where we have come we don't want to do anything that belongs to our past we don't want to do anything that belongs to that sinful nature that we used to have and from which much fleshliness and sinfulness remains in us, but we ate it and we don't want to do it so that's why he teaches us from where we have gone and when he teaches us how we got here the law of and kindness of God being made alive by.

God the Holy Spirit being justified made right with God by Jesus dying on the cross after living in obedient life that too how we got here is so good and so precious that it makes us not want to do anything from our former nature when we want to do good works to show how much God has loved us that that his love would be displayed we do something good as they see our good works and they praise our father and, We want to do good works to show the nature of that.

Holy Spirit who has made us alive and regenerate in us. So that the Holy Spirit would be glorified as the Holy Spirit not the it's okay if I send now spirit because I got my get out of hell free ticket. No we want the Holy Spirit to be glory we want Jesus to be glorified that he who has made us right with God has in him life and goodness that is the spirit applies to us makes us live rightly before God and so because we love the Father and the Spirit and the Son we want them to be glorified in our lives now and we do good works and then of course he tells us not just from where we came and how we got to where we are where we are and how we got here, but he also tells us where we are.

Going that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life and as we hope in that eternal life which includes in it living righteously before God we strain forward we embrace that hope of where we are going as first John 3 says, we do not you know, yet what we shall be?

But we know that when we'll be when he appears we'll be liking because we see him as he is and everyone who hopes in this way purifies himself, even as he is pure, so when you are battling your sin. Desire to gossip about someone or? Indulge in the selfishness and pride that creates constant contention when you live with your seven brothers and sisters and your two parents who are also still centers or inner sins towards God unbelief discouragement grumbling about your your circumstances fear about the future all sorts of things that the Lord does tells us not to do that we have in our hearts as we battle against sin.

The the Holy Spirit here gives us these three things to remember to help us in the battle where we have come from who don't want to go back. Where we are and how we got here we want the father son and spirit who have saved us to be glorified for that salvation and where we are going we strain forward and embrace that hope of eternal life having been justified grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life and in that context with those three wonderful gospel things what God has saved us out of how God has saved us to where we are and what God has seen us unto in the future that wonderful good news.

That enables us without becoming legalists, but rather for the glory of God and out of joy in responding to him to affirm constantly. That those who have believed in God. Should be careful to maintain good works. Let's pray. Father, please help me my family. Help these children. To have hearts and minds that are constantly meditating on these wonderful gospel truths that we had nothing good in us and you saved us out of that.

That the way you did it and the reason you did it and how you did it is by your love and kindness not according to righteous works which we had done but according to your mercy that you saved us that you saved us by your all-powerful. Holy Spirit who washed us and renewed us that you saved us by the righteousness and sacrifice of your son our Lord Jesus give us we pray a desire for your glory.

That helps us to pursue good works. And we pray that having been justified by faith that you would make us.

To hope for embrace and enjoy the certainty of that eternal life that Christ has one for us and that you are bringing us unto you hope as we pray to be careful then to maintain good works for these reasons. That we would not rest in any good work or be proud of any good work that we do.

But that all might be received from you as a gift and done unto you for your glory for we ask it in Jesus name and your children hear say. Amen.