Insist On These Things

Jesse LaRue · Titus 3:4–8

INTRODUCTION

- Five times in Paul's epistles to Timothy and Titus combined, he gives what he calls a trustworthy or faithful saying.
- Here in Titus 3, we have the last and longest of them. One that illustrates and celebrates God's saving work in the lives of his people.
- This is a lifestyle that Paul wants believers to embrace. One that is characterized in every way by good works.

1 God's Love for Mankind

Titus 3:4; James 1:17; Romans 2:4

- The first motivation we have for our devotion to good works is God's love for us.
- When we talk about the goodness of God, it's on a totally different plane because God is the very definition of good.
- Not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.
- God's love for us should motivate us to serve him and to serve others. We can never repay that debt.

2 We Cannot Save Ourselves: He Saved Us by His Mercy

Romans 3:10–24; John 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21

- There's nothing that we could have done to save ourselves. No righteous deeds will do it. But God's mercy and our obedience to him will.
- We work for God because of our faith. We work to him because we're motivated by his love for us.
- How is that mercy enacted? It's by the washing of regeneration. That is, by baptism.
- Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- We can't save ourselves. But what we can do is be washed according to his own mercy, according to his plan.

3 The Holy Spirit Poured Out on Us Richly

Acts 2:38; Titus 3:3; Romans 5:5

- He's part of the Godhead. He is equal to the Father and the Son. And he has been given to us.
- That person that was wholly evil needs to be renewed. And that renewal is brought about by the Holy Spirit.
- God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- The Holy Spirit renews us so that we might become heirs.

4 This Saying Is Trustworthy

Psalm 22:31

- There is evidence for that. We can believe it. It is trustworthy.
- God is telling us to be confident in our salvation through him.
- Luckily we don't have to, because God has established our salvation.
- We have a hope of eternal life as heirs. Because God said it. It is a trustworthy saying.

5 Insist on These Things: Devote Yourselves to Good Works

Titus 3:8; Romans 12:1–2

- Insist on those things so that those who have believed may devote themselves to good works. Brethren, this is the point.
- They motivate me to do something, to change my life, to change my habits, to turn away from the sin that I have been living in.
- Great blessings place us under great obligations.
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.
- The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions.

THE CHALLENGE

So if you need to begin a new life that is profitable to the Lord, devote yourself to him this evening. Turn from the evil ways that you once walked. Submit to him in baptism, rise to walk in newness of life.

MY NOTES