



Lesson 13 August 24th, 2024

Devoted to Good Works

Study Scripture – Titus 3:3-11

Background Scripture – Ephesians 2:1-10

Key Verse:

“But when the kindness of God our Saviour and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

Titus 3:4-5



INTRODUCTION

Jesus tells all believers and non-believers what effect it will have on them if they are devoted to good works, or if they are not devoted to good works. All human beings are under great pressure to live in a way that God does not approve of. Our enemy, the devil, has all kinds of tricks and temptations to make us do what we should not do, even though we know that doing certain actions carry risks that is not worth taking. Our Lesson Study reminds us however that we have a friend in God the Father who so loved us that He sent His son to minister to us and make us free from the bondage of sin. God did that because He loved us. We could not help ourselves and so He took the initiative and acted on our behalf. So, let us see what Jesus said knowing we have to obey Him for He is the only one that provides salvation:

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

And He will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave Me food. I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in. I was naked and you clothed Me. I was sick and you visited Me. I was in prison and you came to Me.

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and gave You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and came to You?'

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me'.

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, For I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison and you did not visit Me'.

Then they will answer Him saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

Then He will answer them, saying, Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life".

In this Study Lesson we are examining the teaching of the Apostle Paul who was instructing his personal representative named Titus how to deal with and teach the people of Crete, an island near to Greece. Those people had a very bad reputation as greedy, violent, gluttonous which means always overeating, drinking too much, addicted to lying, and doing all kinds of evil. Titus would have a difficult task to help set up churches, organize them properly, and appoint good leaders who would teach the members of the church how to live godly and upright lives. This was a very tough job, but it had to be done. It was very necessary to send Titus for he was a tough, well-experienced and capable missionary who worked with the Apostle Paul for a long time. Paul could trust him to do the job well. He was able to teach sound doctrine, love people, be able to teach and convince the people in Crete of the love of God, and be able to convince them of the truth of the Bible.

Many people do not like to hear this message from the School of God. Most people like to do what they want to do. In so doing they put themselves in the place of God. That makes no sense, and people behaving that way will face a difficult and painful judgment from God and they will regret what they had been doing.

In this matter of divine salvation brought to man by the great mercy of God we must remember that the way of God is perfect. All human beings are guilty for they all break the commandments of God. Men are not righteous and even when they do things that we can call good works, it can only be called 'good' by human standards where we do not look at the inward part of a person and look into his heart and motives in doing what was done. These 'good works' done by unbelievers are not works that meet the standard of God. They are not done from a heart of love for God, a desire to obey God, to glorify God. Many do good things only because the laws of God has been put in the heart of all men from the time they are born,



(Read Romans 1 and 3), and so the Holy Spirit comes to them and speaks to them and works on them to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. If men do not accept the salvation brought by Christ and have their hearts changed to become hearts filled with love for God and for other human beings, whatever they do, even if it looks good to someone watching them, what they are doing will not please God the Father.

Jesus warns all men to accept the goodness of God. He promises the Holy Spirit will transform and richly and abundantly bless all believers. God is gracious and kind, and will make believers heirs of God since they are in the family of God. They will not only be under the protection of the Holy Spirit when they are living on earth, but believers will inherit eternal life and have the right to enter into the extraordinarily magnificent and awesome New Jerusalem which God the Father will prepare and send down to the New heaven and the New earth.

So, follow the “good way”, live godly and upright lives, resist the temptations from Satan, and if something comes to you that does not look right talk to God and ask Him what to do. As a matter of fact, even if something looks right ask God if it is good anyway. Sometimes Satan gets very deceptive and tricky, and it is not easy to tell what God likes from what He does not like. That is the best way to live. Do good things, and devote yourself to good works. Live depending on the Holy Spirit for teaching, guidance, security, and leading.

