

Titus 3

Verse by Verse

The Gospel and Good Works

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Important
Reminders
3:1-2

The Gospel
3:3-7

Belief and
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3:8

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Conclusions

Final Remarks
3:12-15

St. Paul, imprisoned, ends the letter to the Ephesians, and hands it over to Tychicus. Wood engraving, 1886, Gustave Dore (Wikimedia Commons)



Introduction

Previously in Titus

- In **Titus 2** Paul clarified some of what Titus was supposed to teach, answering **two basic questions**:
- **How Should We Christians Live? 2:1-10**
- **Why We Should Live That Way? 2:11-15**

Titus 2:11-12 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Ministry in
Crete

What's in
Titus 3?

Key Verses

Ministry in Crete



<https://endorfeen.com/the-highest-mountain-in-crete/>

- By Paul's time, the people of Crete already had a long reputation for being rude and obnoxious.
- According to Paul, this reputation was well-deserved.
- We also know that Crete did not have any large major cities.
- Titus would have to travel around the island, visiting numerous towns along its coast.
- There might also be inland villages near the mountainous center of the island.



<https://www.cntraveler.com/story/the-lesser-known-side-of-crete-greece>

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- Paul ends this letter by emphasizing two things.
 1. He gives us one more summary of the gospel.
 2. He repeats his reminder that Christians should be devoted to doing good works.
 3. He ends with some final personal requests for Titus.

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Titus 3:4-5

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Important Reminders 3:1-2

Romans 13:1

- **3:1 Submissive to rulers** Nero was emperor at this time.
- **Ready for every good work.** There is that phrase again.
- **3:2 gentle** This word has the sense of being fair, reasonable or moderate. This person is not a stickler for unnecessary rules.
- The overall picture is that of an honorable person who others can get along with.

Romans 13:1-2

From Chuck
Smith

1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.



Chuck Smith (1927-2013),
founding pastor of the
Calvary Chapel
Movement

God sometimes allows evil men to reign, as a way of judging and causing His people to turn back to Him. Our role is to submit to our leaders, and to be good citizens, unless they order us to do something that directly contradicts the commandments of God, in which case "we ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

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The Gospel 3:3-7

- **3:3 We ourselves** Paul includes himself in this group.
- **Led astray** Deception can include religion - as with Paul - or non-religion, as with the rest of the list.
- **3:4 God our Savior** and then,
- **3:6 Jesus Christ our Savior** So, **Jesus is God**
- This is the second time Paul has done this in this same letter. See also **Titus 1:3-4**.

Key Verses

What It
Means to Be
an Heir

Past,
Present and
Future

Key Verses

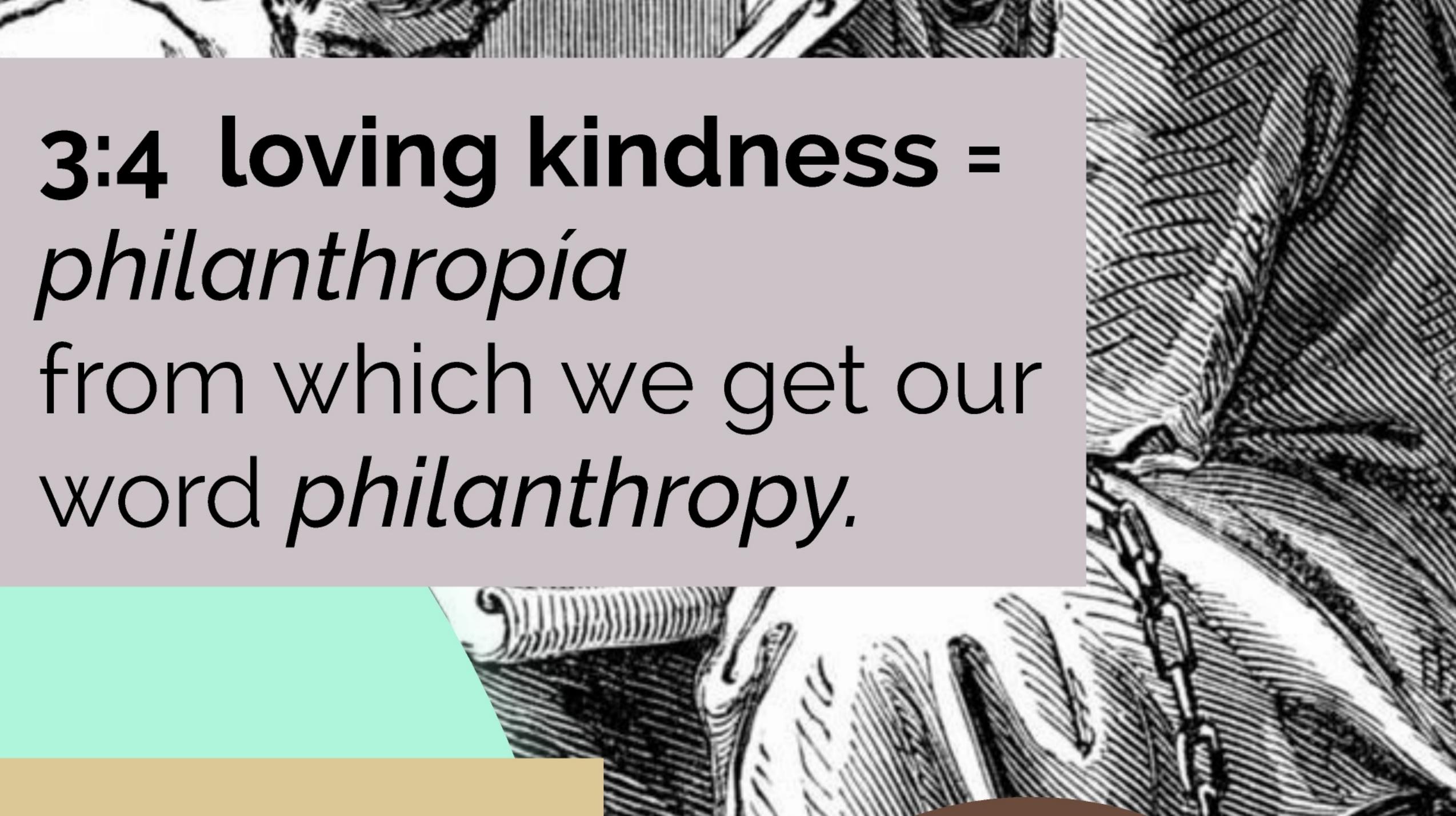
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from which we get our
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Titus 3:4-5

4 But when the goodness and **loving kindness** of God our Savior appeared, 5 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**.

Regeneration

From Chuck
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Regeneration

- This word indicates a **new birth** or **new beginning**.
- **John 3:3** Jesus [said to Nicodemus], “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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Regeneration

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The Holy Spirit is in the process of transforming us from what we used to be into what God wants us to be. I'm not yet complete, as far as my progress is concerned, but the process of renewal is underway, to conform me into the image of Jesus Christ. I'm not what I should be but, thank God, I'm not what I used to be, and I know that since God has begun a good work in me, He will finish it (Phil 1:6). He is in the process of making me new!

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What It
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Past,
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What It Means to Be an Heir

- **3:7 by his grace we might become heirs**
- The heir is confident of the inheritance.
- The inheritance is a birthright, not an earned form of compensation.
- The inheritance forces the heir to take the present seriously – it forms part of the heir's present identity.
- The heir is not yet in full possession of the inheritance, but must wait for the right time.



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What It
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Past,
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The Past, Present and Future of Our Salvation

- **Past:** God's love for us appeared in Christ. (v.4)
- **Present:** We have the abiding presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit and His constant renewing. (v.5)
- **Future:** We are heirs according to the hope of eternal life, awaiting our full inheritance. (v.7)



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Belief and Behavior 3:8

Trustworthy
Sayings

- Paul connects our understanding of the gospel with a devotion to **good works**.
- **Works done in righteousness (3:5)** do not earn us any credit with God.
- Yet a **devotion to Good Works (3:8)** is what God expects of his church - **those who have believed** in him.

Trustworthy Sayings (or, Faithful Sayings in NKJV)

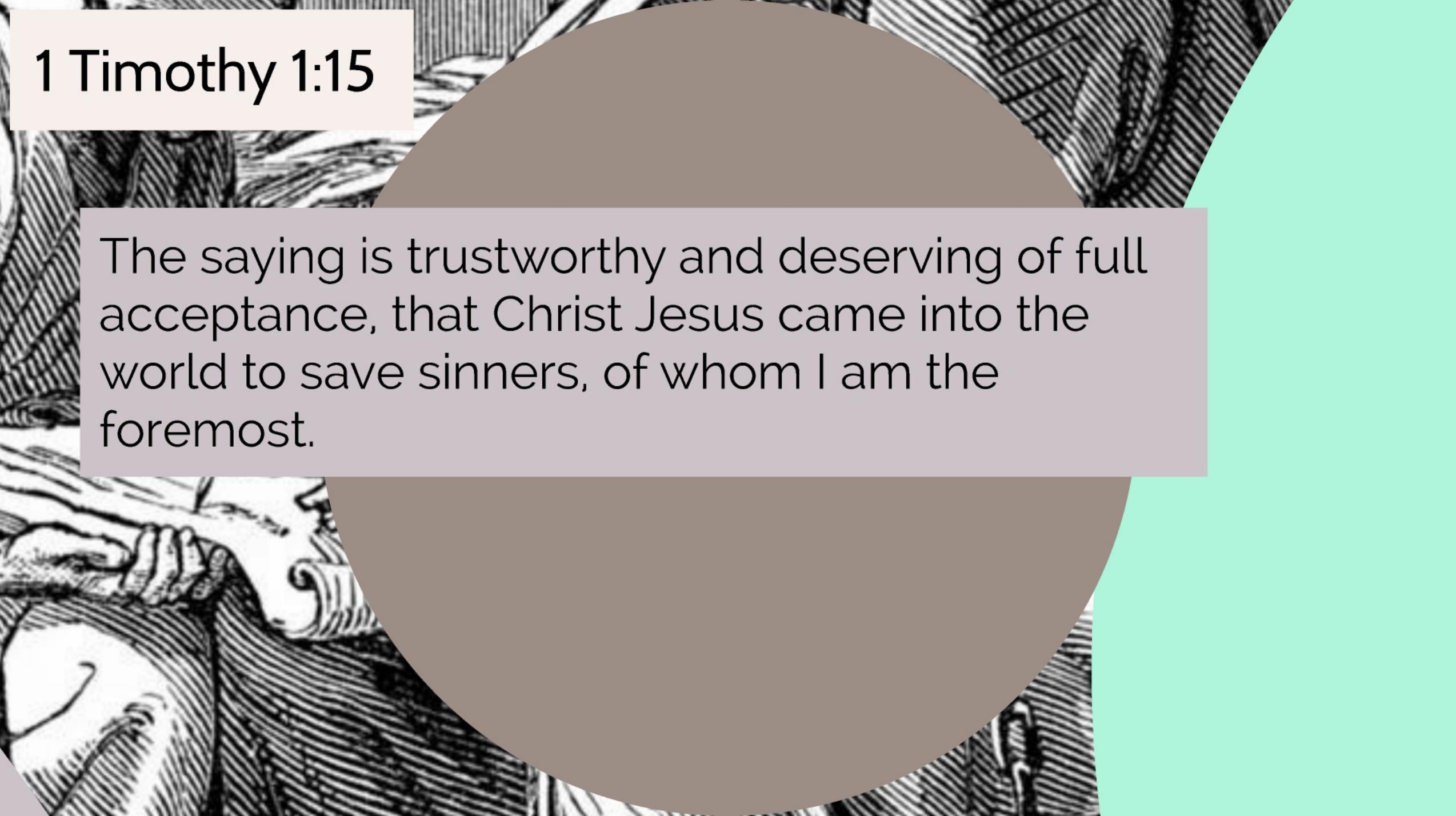
**1 Timothy
1:15**

**1 Timothy
4:8-9**

**Titus
3:7-8**

**1 Timothy
3:1**

**2 Timothy
2:11-13**



1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Trustworthy Sayings (or, Faithful Sayings in NKJV)

1 Timothy
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4:8-9

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3:7-8

1 Timothy
3:1

2 Timothy
2:11-13

1 Timothy 3:1

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.



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1 Timothy
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2:11-13

1 Timothy 4:8-9

8 For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

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**1 Timothy
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**2 Timothy
2:11-13**

2 Timothy 2:11-13

11 The saying is trustworthy:

For if we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

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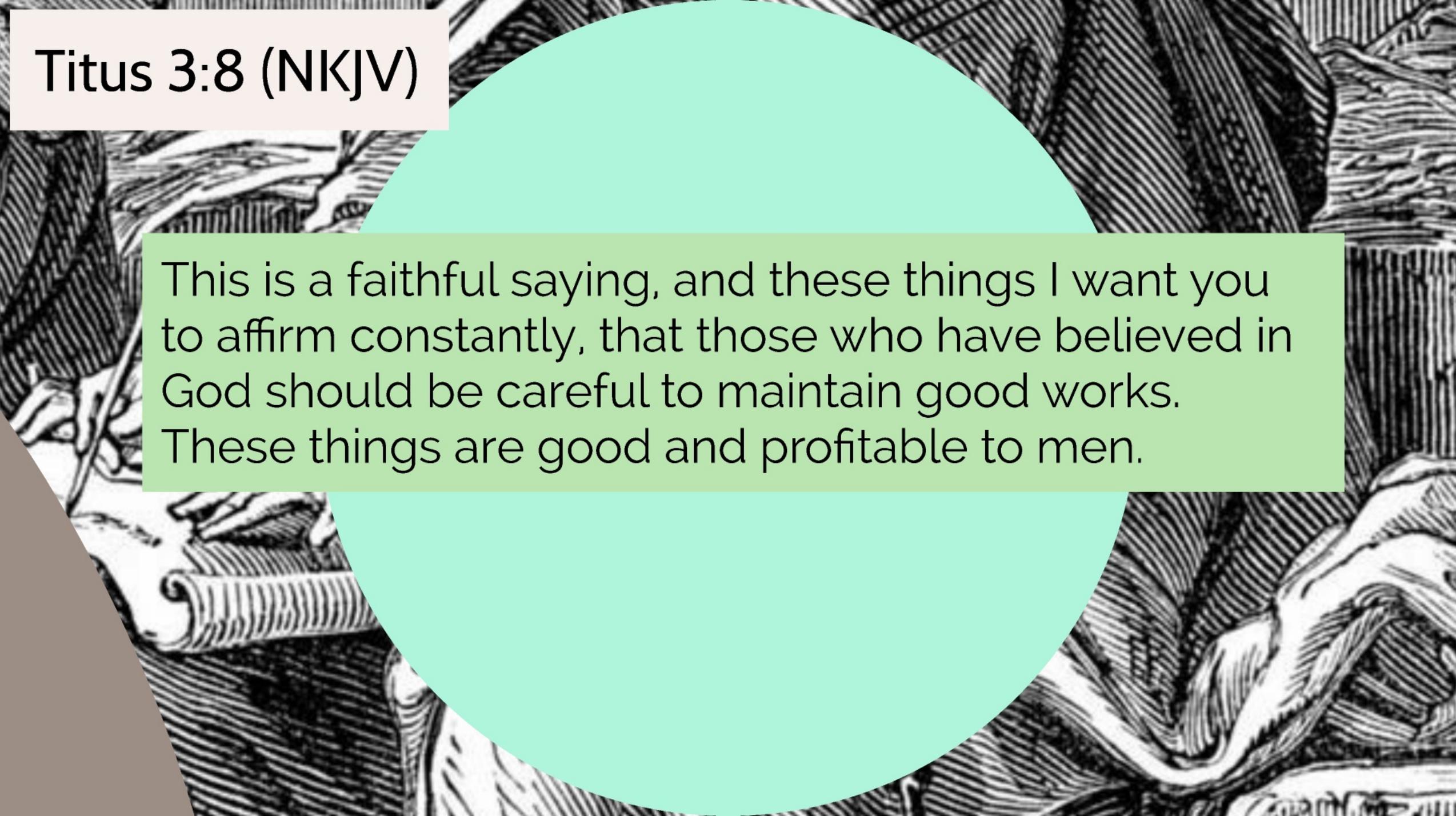
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Titus 3:7-8

... being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

Titus 3:8
(NKJV)



Titus 3:8 (NKJV)

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.

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Things to Avoid 3:9-11

- **3:9** Paul is opposed to constant arguing in the church - even, or especially, when it involves Scripture.
- **3:10** He takes a “3 strikes and your out” approach to the divisive man.
- **3:11** Stubbornness in causing divisions is the outward indicator of a crooked heart and mind.
- Titus is not to put up with it. **The person is self-condemned.**
- In other words, they illustrate by their lives and behavior that they are not submitted to God.

From Tony
Evans

James
3:17-18

Few things drive away seekers like church infighting. So Satan loves to encourage selfish strife and division among church members.

What should churches do with a divisive person who quarrels about unprofitable and worthless matters? Warn him twice and then reject him (3:10-11).



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher
and Commentator



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17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.
18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- *This is the opposite of the divisive person who seems obsessed with controversies.*



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Final Remarks 3:12-15

- This passage shows us the personal nature of this letter to **Titus**.
- We do not know anything about **Artemas** or **Zenas**. They only appear here.
- It is possible they were later additions to Paul's ministry team.
- **Tychicus** appears in five different books, but never with much else besides his name.
- At least we know him as a faithful partner in Paul's ministry.
- **Apollos** was an early member of the team from Alexandria.
- He was a convert of **Aquila and Priscilla's** ministry in Ephesus.

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Conclusions

- Paul has concentrated on both **the gospel** and **good works** as essential elements in a Christian life and ministry.
- Christians should be respectable people with lives that match the message of God's grace.
- Within the church, we should not tolerate divisiveness or scandalous behavior.
- Those are elements of our past life, not part of following Jesus.

Gospel and
Good Works

A Final
Prayer

Gospel and Good Works

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 3:4-8

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 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, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.



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Gospel and
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A Final Prayer

Dear heavenly Father,

- Thank you that in Christ our sins have been washed away.
- Thank you for the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. We believe that we have been given a new start in Christ and that the Holy Spirit is transforming us day by day into his likeness.
- Please help us to make a clean break with our old lives and old nature and to live lives worthy of the gospel, devoted to good works.
- In Christ,
- Amen

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