

Summary

This sermon concludes a four-week study of the book of Titus, focusing on the theme of living differently as Christians. Pastor Mike emphasizes that believers are called to 'be good and do good' not through their own efforts, but by the grace of God. The message contrasts our lives before Christ (enslaved to sin) with our lives after salvation (freed and made new). Paul's letter to Titus instructs Christians to be law-abiding citizens, avoid divisiveness and foolish controversies, and devote themselves to doing good works. The pastor explains three reasons why doing good is important: it benefits others, it benefits ourselves by making our lives productive, and it honors God's reputation since we are His ambassadors.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging that we are saved by Your grace alone. As we gather together to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to the work of Your Holy Spirit in our lives. We recognize that apart from You, we can do nothing good, but through Your grace, we can live differently and make a difference in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive Your truth and to apply it to our daily lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one simple act of kindness that someone did for you recently that made your day better?

Key Verses

1. Titus 3:1-2
2. Titus 3:3
3. Titus 3:4-7
4. Titus 3:8
5. Titus 3:14

Questions

1. According to Titus 3:3, what were we like before we knew Jesus? How does this description resonate with your own experience?
2. Paul instructs believers to 'be subject to rulers and authorities' and 'be ready to do whatever is good.' How do we balance being good citizens while maintaining our primary allegiance to God?
3. What does it mean to 'avoid foolish controversies' in today's world? What kinds of discussions or debates should Christians steer clear of?
4. The sermon mentions that doing good is 'good for others, good for you, and good for God.' Which of these three motivations resonates most with you and why?

5. How does understanding that we are saved by grace (not by good works) actually motivate us to do more good works?
6. Paul warns against divisive people in verses 10-11. How can we identify divisiveness in ourselves or others, and how should we respond?
7. The pastor shared a story about knocking on doors with toys in the yard for Bible school. What are some practical ways we can look for opportunities to do good in our daily lives?
8. Titus 3:8 says believers should 'devote themselves to doing what is good.' What does it look like to be devoted to doing good rather than just occasionally doing good things?

Life Application

This week, instead of looking for one good thing to do, ask God to help you develop a heart that naturally looks for opportunities to do good. Choose one area of your life (work, neighborhood, family, etc.) and intentionally look for ways to serve others and represent Christ well. Remember, you're not trying to earn God's favor - you're responding to the grace He's already given you.

Key Takeaways

1. We are called to live differently as Christians - being good citizens, avoiding divisiveness, and doing good works
2. Before Christ, we were sinners enslaved to sin, but because of Jesus, we are saved by grace and made new
3. Doing good benefits others, makes our own lives productive, and honors God's reputation as His ambassadors
4. Good works flow from salvation by grace, not as a means to earn salvation
5. We should devote ourselves to doing good consistently, not just occasionally

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that we have been saved by Your grace alone, not by our good works. Help us to live differently in response to Your amazing love and sacrifice. Give us hearts that are devoted to doing good, not to earn Your favor, but because we are grateful for what You have already done. Help us to be Your ambassadors in this world, representing You well through our words and actions. May others see You through the good we do. We ask for Your strength and the power of Your Holy Spirit to enable us to live lives that honor You. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.