

Titus 3:8-11 Word Search

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 U E Q S Q J X L R T C N K D U

ANNA
 FAITHFUL
 HERETIC
 MAINTAIN
 WARPED

AFFIRM
 DIVISIVE
 GENEALOGIES
 MACGYVER
 SAYING

ADMONITION
 DISPUTES
 FOOLISH
 JOEL
 PROFITABLE

Scripture of the Week

“My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproofs him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.”

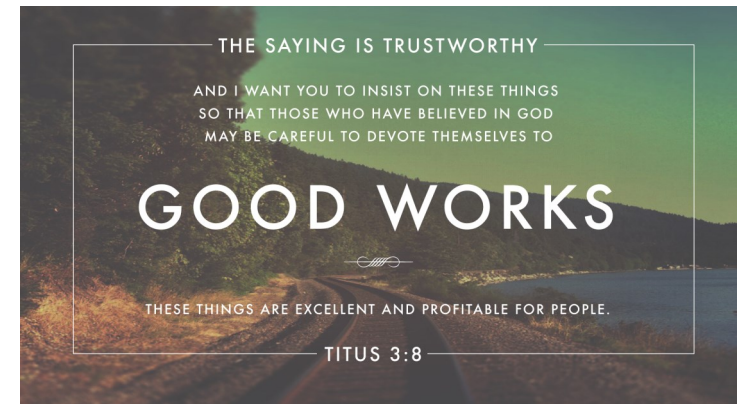
- Proverbs 3:11-12

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- Lord's Day & Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday & Saturday

Signature

Daily Bible Studies
 February 2-8, 2014
 “Decisive Deeds and
 Dangerous Dialogue”
 Titus 3:8-11



The Lord's Day and Monday

This week's text is **Titus 3:8-11**.

"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. But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned."

One of the key ideas of this passage is similar to one's found in other parts of the New Testament. The idea is that we should respond to God's goodness toward us by producing good works. We are to be imitators of God. (Ephesians 5:1) In Romans, for example, Paul writes eleven chapters about God's mercy and goodness toward us. He begins chapter 12 by begging us to offer our bodies to God as a living sacrifice. Similarly in Phillipians 2, Paul lists many things that a Christian has received from God. He goes on to say that if you have received these things, then you should be like-minded with other Christians, you should have the same love as other Christians, and have the same mind as other Christians.

Now, in Titus we have just seen in 3:4-7 the wonderful work of salvation in our lives and Paul reminds us to respond by being careful to maintain good works. If you are a Christian, then God wants your life to be one filled with good works. If your life has an obvious lack of good works, then you must read the Bible, pray, and examine if you really are a Christian.

Friday Quiz

1. What is the first step when we are dealing with a divisive person or heretic?

2. How many times, at a minimum, should we try to warn and correct a divisive person?

3. Why do you think we must reject a divisive man? How does rejecting him help the church? How does rejecting him benefit himself?

Suggestion for Prayer

Father, may we be a people that listen and respond to Your word.

Pray for the Lord's Day Service

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

Friday

The last reading of the week is **Titus 3:10-11**.

Yesterday we learned what a divisive, or heretical, man is. He is someone who loves his own opinion rather than the truth that is taught in the Bible.

Paul says we must reject this type of person. He is to be thrown out of the church, but not like a piece of trash. The elders and the people of the church should warn the man. He should be taught. People should beg him to change his mind and repent of his sin. He should be prayed for. If all of this fails however, Paul says that after the first and second attempts the person should be rejected. In all likelihood, Paul meant that the person should be thrown out of the church, or excommunicated.

Why such drastic action though? Paul says in verse 11, that a person who refuses to be corrected is “warped and sinning, being self-condemned.” In other words, because the person has refused to listen he is only hurting himself. The elders and the people of the church are not harming him. He has already harmed himself by refusing to listen. He is “self-condemned.”

What did Paul mean when he said they are “warped and sinning.” Warped wood is wood that is twisted. It is very difficult to use when building something. Lots of pressure and torque have to be applied before it will move into its proper position. A divisive man refuses to bend. He will not listen to reason. He is sinfully stubborn. The Holy Spirit may strive with him, but he will not obey. This person must be put out of the church, but he should be prayed for and loved before and after this happens. Perhaps God will grant him repentance and he will turn from his sin so that he can be accepted as a brother once again.

The Lord’s Day and Monday Quiz

1. What is one of the key ideas of this week’s passage?

2. Read Phillipians 2:1. What are the blessings that a Christian has received?

3. What is the proper order? We do good works to be saved or we do good works because we are saved?

Suggestion for Prayer

God, teach me this week from Sacred Scripture why I should be careful to maintain good works and avoid foolish, fruitless and divisive ones.

Pray for Family

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts, Cousins

Tuesday

Please read **Titus 3:8**.

Today we will continue yesterday's thoughts. Remember we were speaking about the way in which we are to respond to God's mercy toward us. Paul had spoken about these things:

1. The kindness and love of God appearing to man.
2. The Holy Spirit regenerating us (making us new) and renewing us (making us more like Jesus).
3. Jesus Christ is our Savior
4. All this was done so that we should be heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

In light of all of these things, and more importantly *as a result of them*, Paul says, "*that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.*"

Notice that Paul says we should be *careful* to maintain good works. That means we are to put forth an effort. We should not drift along hoping we can do some good work. We should always be looking for an opportunity. We should be planning to make opportunities.

Paul also tells us that these things are "good and profitable to men." So we see that as Christians, we should seek to glorify God not only by helping fellow Christians but also by helping the world around us. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

This idea is so important that Paul tells Titus he wants him to affirm it constantly. This means that he must speak it over and over again and he must do it confidently. It is an important truth that must be remembered and rehearsed repeatedly.

Thursday Quiz

1. What is another translation for divisive man?

2. What did the word heretic originally mean?

3. When we choose our own opinion instead of what the Bible tells us, what kind of doctrine do we end up with?

4. Should we listen to opinions that do not come from the Bible?

Suggestion for Prayer

Father, help me to be careful not to elevate my opinion over and against Your Word. You have revealed the truth in the life and teaching of Jesus and have left us with it in the words of the Apostles and prophets from Sacred Scripture. May I strive to be a truth loving, humble, unifying Christian rather than a factious, divisive, heretic.

Pray for All Men

1. Mr. Norman Marsh, Cattaraugus County
Legislature Chairman
2. Ms. Kathy Young, NYS Senator
3. Mr. Charles Schumer, United States Senator

Thursday

Please read **Titus 3:10**.

What happens when someone does not avoid the things that we spoke about yesterday? How should we treat a person in the church that refuses to obey God and who believes and teaches things that are not true?

Paul says we are to reject a “divisive man after the first and second admonition (warning or correction).” What is a divisive man? Well, divisive man could also be translated as *heretic*. Originally, the word heretic meant someone who chooses for himself; someone who prefers to have his own opinion. In other words a heretic, or divisive man, is someone who thinks he knows it all. He often refuses to listen to what the Bible clearly teaches and he refuses to let other people teach him. He has his own opinion and no one can change his mind.

This type of person is often wrong. For example, the Bible teaches that we are saved by the grace of God alone and all true Christians believe this. A heretic on the other hand thinks he is smarter than everyone else. He will say that we are not saved by the grace of God. This is called false doctrine and unfortunately it often leads people straight to Hell.

So what are we to learn? Answer: Avoid people that have their own opinions instead of forming their opinions based upon the Bible. Avoid people that don’t care what the Bible has to say. They are in great danger and they can lead you into danger.

Tomorrow we will study in more detail what we should do when there is a divisive man in the church.

Tuesday Quiz

1. What must a true Christian be careful to do according to today’s verse?

2. What does it mean to maintain something? How much effort does it take to maintain something?

3. Who benefits from the good works that Christians do?

4. How often did Paul want Titus to speak about the importance of good works?

Suggestion for Prayer

God, help me to always meditate on, hear, receive, and believe the faithful sayings of Your Word and the message of good news that they proclaim.

Pray for the Church

1. Mrs. Sandy Carbone
2. Ms. Britany Clark
3. Ms. Tammy Cummings

Wednesday

Wednesday's reading is **Titus 3:9**.

So far this week we have talked about the fruit that a true Christian produces. He or she will produce good works. OK, boys and girls, quiz time. What must we do? Good works!

Now we will look at what we must *not* do. Paul says we must, "*avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.*"

Remember that good works are profitable to all men, but lots of pointless talk is unprofitable and helps no one. We are not to even get near any of the things that Paul lists. Stay away! They are dangerous.

Paul tells us to stay away from *foolish disputes*. Don't be a part of stupid arguments. Don't fight over things that don't matter. Also do not take part in fights about the law of God. The Pharisees used to fight about the law of God like it was their job. They would write endless rules about what you could do on the Sabbath day and what you could not. They would also create imaginary genealogies (family trees) for different Old Testament figures. I hope it's obvious that figuring out who Jonah's great-great-great grandfather was is not going to help you glorify God.

Finally avoid talking about the Bible just so that you appear to be religious. God knows whose hearts are truly turned to Him and who is just playing a game. Discussing the Bible is very important, but if we do not intend to obey it and let it change us, then we have become useless hypocrites. Avoid doing this as if your very soul depends on it.

Wednesday Quiz

True or False

- 1.) Talking about the Bible is good, even if we are not obeying it. T or F
- 2.) The Pharisees used to invent many laws and create imaginary family trees for Bible characters T or F
- 3.) We should avoid and stay away from Foolish disputes. T or F
- 4.) God wants us to do good works. T or F

Suggestion for Prayer

Father, help us to be careful to avoid foolish and useless discussions and be about the business of proclaiming the facts of the gospel and by believing them let us be truly living out in action the greatest commandments of loving You and our neighbor.

Pray for Missionaries

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

Mr. Paul and Mrs. Erica Simone: Imagine you live in a place where Bibles, churches, and pastors are all illegal. You know nothing about Jesus, but one day you turn on your radio and hear the word of God. Wouldn't that be wonderful? The Simone family sets up radio stations, so the gospel can go places that it is not allowed. "...the word of God is not bound." - 2 Timothy 2:9

