

Titus

[Part 3]

Titus 3:1-2 [NIV] *“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no-one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility towards all men.”*

Here is laid down the public duty of a Christian.

A good citizen is law-abiding –

They recognise that unless laws are kept life becomes a chaos.

Thus they give proper respect to those who have been set in authority, and carries out whatever command is given them.

Christianity does **not** insist that a person should cease to be an individual but to remember that they are also a member of a group of people. [Please download and study our article ‘*No-One Is An Island*’ listed under ‘*Evangelism*’]

A good citizen is active in service –

Ready for any work as long as it is good.

A modern disease is boredom which is a direct result of selfishness.

A good citizen is careful in speech –

They never slander anyone. No person should say about other people what they would **not** like others to say about them.

A good citizen is tolerant –

The Greek word used is “*amachōs*” meaning not fighting, not contentious, allow others to have their convictions in the same way they have their own convictions.

A good citizen is kind –

The Greek word used is “*ēpiēkēs*” meaning moderate, patient, forbearing, **not** insisting on the letter of the law. Ready to temper justice with mercy.

A good citizen is gentle –

The Greek word is “*praus*” meaning meekness, a soothing disposition. A person who knows when to be angry and when not to be angry, patiently bears wrongs done to themselves.

Only possible for a person within whose heart Jesus Christ reigns supreme. [Philippians 2:5-8]

Titus 3:3-8 [NIV] *“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may*

be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.”

The motivating force of the Christian life is twofold.

Supreme gratitude – when we look at the lives of others who are still blinded by the god of this world, Satan. [**Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9**]

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This is how we respond, offer our total life, body, mind and human spirit [the meaning of the Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning whole life] to God for Him to re-educate to make us acceptable to Him.

Grateful for we know “there but for the grace of God go I.”

Only the power of the Holy Spirit working in us has opened up this new life to us. [**John 16:5-8**]

The motivation also comes from the realisation of what God has done for us through the birth, life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.

1) Jesus Christ gave us a new relationship with God –

Before the work of Jesus Christ, God was the King before whom humans stood in awe, the judge before whom humans cringed in terror, a majestic potentate who could only be regarded with fear.

Jesus Christ revealed the same God who was a loving father who opened up His heart to humans and stretched out His arms in love and mercy.

2) This love and grace of God are gifts which no human could ever deserve or earn –

God’s love and mercy can only be accepted in trust and an awakened love for Him.

The key to a Christian life is wonder and humble gratitude, towards our Creator God, that will lead to the love that God wants us to have for Him. [**1 John 4:19**]

3) The love and grace of the Creator God are mediated to all humans through His Church –

The fellowship of humans who have already received God’s love and grace.

This mediation is mainly done by individual Christians.

Matthew 5:13-16 [NIV] *“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ‘You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

The major increase in the number of people becoming Christians is the result of the personal conduct and contact with people who are already Christians.

[For help in accomplishing this work please download and study articles on this website under main heading of ‘Evangelism’ especially ‘Personal Evangelism’, ‘Sharing Christ’, ‘Are We Ready To Tell?’ and ‘A Heart For The Lost’.]

4) The main power behind this work of sharing the love and grace of God with others is the Holy Spirit in us.

John 7:38-39 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

This outflow of the Holy Spirit is the motivated love, compassion and concern that a Christian shows to other human beings through good works.

Ephesians 2:8-10 [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Every person who is called by God to become a Christian has specific, personal work given to them by the Creator God.

It is our responsibility to find out what that work is and make it central to our life.

5) Jesus Christ opened up to each of us the hope of a wonderful joy-filled future within the Kingdom [created family] of God

Romans 8:18-25 [NIV] *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”*

The whole of God’s creation, both material and human, is at this time in bondage of misuse and ignorance, brought about by the influence of Satan.

The release from this bondage will be at the return of Jesus Christ when the “*firstborn*” created children of God will reign with Jesus Christ, to bring in a new age, of joy, peace and prosperity for all humanity.

All true Christians pray for that day to dawn and patiently await its coming.

2 Peter 3:10-14 [NIV] *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”*

The return of Jesus Christ, the herald of this new golden age, will come suddenly.

But notice that in the context of living this new Christian life is the looking forward to that day but also the words “*speed its coming.*”

What does this phrase mean?

The Greek word translated “*speed*” is “*spēudō*” meaning to urge on.

We cannot dictate to God His timetable but there are certain things we can do to show our deep desire for Jesus Christ’s return.

Ezekiel 9:4 [King James] *“And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.”*

God set apart for protection from His wrath because of the sins of Israel, those who were crying out to Him in prayer about the many abominations that they saw.

The faithfulness of these people was determined by their sensitivity to and sorrow over their nation’s sins.

The spiritual leaders had blatantly promoted idol worship and the people had turned their back on their Creator God.

How ardent are our prayers for Jesus Christ’s return to bring to an end the deception of Satan and his ministers [**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**] and all the pain and suffering that comes with that deception.

The second thing that will “*speed*” the coming of Jesus Christ is to make every effort to become spotless, blameless and at peace with our Creator God.

Titus 3:9-11 [NIV] *“But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.”*

A person may consider themselves religious and righteous because they discuss religious questions.

There is a kind of discussion group who will argue for hours about theological questions but fail to fulfil the simple tasks of Christian living and witness that are waiting to be done.

Any Christian discussions must end up with Christian action, else they are wasted time.

Paul also warned against contact with a divisive person, the person places his own ideas the test and standard of all truth and not God’s own words, the Christian Bible as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

True teaching, based totally on God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will unite people, not cause division.

Titus 3:12-15 [NIV] *“As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.”*

As usual Paul ends his letter with personal messages and greetings.

Artemas – we knew nothing at all.

Tychicus – was one of Paul’s most trusted messengers. [**Colossians 4:7; Ephesians 6:21**]

Zenas – we know nothing at all, except he was called a lawyer, Greek word “*nōmikōs*” meaning learned in the law. The only lawyer mentioned by name in the New Testament. May have been a converted Jewish scribe.

Apollos – was a well-known Alexandrian Jew [Acts 18:24-28]. He had accurate knowledge of the life of Jesus Christ and was a powerful preacher but did not fully understand the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This lack of knowledge was rectified by Priscilla and Aquila.

As in every letter from Paul his last words were about the grace of our Creator God.