

Sermon Notes / Titus 3.9-15

Sunday, 2nd November 2025

Overview: What matters most?

Paul charges Titus and the church to prioritize the Gospel above distractions, fueling transformation, discipleship, and good works for God's mission.

The Priority of the Gospel

Like the blind beggar in Mark 10 who cried out for mercy despite the crowd's attempts to silence him, we must laser-focus on the Gospel.

Paul warns in Titus 3.9 to avoid "unprofitable and worthless" distractions: foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law.

These drain energy from our core calling: evangelizing the lost and making disciples (Titus 3.8).

Instead, follow the well-marked "Gospel trail" (1 Corinthians 15.1-4): Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day.

This is of "first importance"!

Insist on What Matters

Paul urges Titus to "insist on these things" (Titus 3.8) so believers devote themselves to good works that are "excellent and profitable."

Fixating on distractions leads to worthless division, like whitewashed tombs (Matthew 23.27): beautiful outside but empty inside.

But proclaiming the Gospel produces real fruit: *unity, evangelism, and lives that adorn God's truth.*

Roles in the Church

Elders:

Guard the flock decisively (Titus 3.10-11).

Warn divisive people twice, then reject them because they're warped and self-condemned.

Prioritize sound teaching and remove distractions to preserve the mission.

Congregation:

Devote to good works (Titus 3.14), which flow from God's grace (Titus 2.11-14), adorn doctrine (Titus 2.10), and meet urgent needs.

Good works prove living faith, not earning salvation.

What to Do This Week

Examine your focus:

Are distractions derailing CLC's mission?

Meditate on 1 Corinthians 15.3-4 and thank God for the Gospel.

Avoid divisive debates and insist on truth in conversations.

Elders, lead by guarding unity.

Everyone, do one good work to meet a need.

Live out the church's mission:

Be and make disciples by loving God and people.

Remember: Prioritize the Gospel because it's the path to power, not just a form of godliness!

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