



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Titus 3.9-15

Open with Prayer

Discussion Questions:

1. **Gospel Focus:** The sermon compares our need to prioritize the Gospel to the blind beggar in Mark 10 who ignored distractions to cry out for mercy. What distractions in your life (e.g., debates, worries, or daily noise) might be pulling you away from a "laser-focus" on the Gospel? How can the "Gospel trail" from 1 Corinthians 15.3-4 help you refocus?
2. **Avoiding Distractions:** Paul warns in Titus 3.9 to avoid "unprofitable and worthless" things like foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law. Share an example from your experience where getting caught up in a divisive issue drained your spiritual energy. How can we practically discern and avoid these in our church or personal lives?
3. **Insisting on Truth:** Titus 3.8 calls us to "insist on these things" so believers devote to good works that are "excellent and profitable." In contrast, distractions lead to a "form of godliness" without power (like whitewashed tombs in Matthew 23.27). How have you seen proclaiming the Gospel produce real fruit in a community? What might happen if we prioritized it more in our group?
4. **Elders' Role:** Paul instructs elders in Titus 3.10-11 to warn divisive people twice and then reject them to guard the flock. Reflecting on this, how does one balance grace with decisive action against division?
5. **Congregation's Role:** The sermon emphasizes that good works (Titus 3.14) flow from God's grace, adorn doctrine (Titus 2.10), and meet urgent needs—proving our faith is alive. How do good works in your life demonstrate the Gospel rather than trying to earn salvation? Share one way you've seen good works advance God's mission.
6. **Personal Application:** Examine and meditate on 1 Corinthians 15.3-4. Are there "distractions derailing our Christian mission" right now? How can you apply this

by avoiding a divisive debate and instead doing one good work to meet a need this week?

7. **CLC's Mission:** *To be and to make disciples of Christ Jesus as we love God and love people.* As a group, brainstorm one step we can take together to live this out undistracted and unstoppable.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Prioritize the Gospel Above All Distractions:** Like the blind beggar in Mark 10, laser-focus on the "first importance" of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15.3-4)—Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Avoid "unprofitable" debates and controversies (Titus 3.9) that derail our mission to evangelize and make disciples, ensuring we stay on the timeless Gospel trail.
2. **Insist on Truth for Fruitful Living:** Paul urges us to "insist on these things" (Titus 3.8) so believers devote to good works that are excellent and profitable. Proclaiming the Gospel fuels authentic transformation and unity, while distractions lead to empty godliness—choose focus that produces real power and discipleship.
3. **Fulfill Your Role in Guarding the Mission:** Elders, guard the flock by rejecting division (Titus 3.10-11) and prioritizing sound teaching. Congregation, devote to good works that flow from grace (Titus 3.14), adorn the Gospel, and meet needs. Together, live out the church's calling: Be and make disciples by loving God and people, undistracted and unstoppable.

Practical Applications:

1. **Refocus Daily on the Gospel Trail:** Start each morning by meditating on 1 Corinthians 15.3-4 (Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again). Identify one distraction (e.g., a divisive social media debate) and actively avoid it that day, replacing it with a simple act of sharing the Gospel's hope with someone.
2. **Insist on Truth in Conversations:** In your next group interaction (e.g., family dinner or small group), intentionally steer discussions toward "excellent and profitable" topics by sharing a personal story of how the Gospel has transformed you.
3. **Devote to Good Works That Meet Needs:** This week, identify an urgent need in your community (e.g., helping a neighbor or volunteering at church) and take one tangible step to address it, viewing it as an overflow of God's grace (Titus 3.14).

Close in Prayer