

Titus 2:11-15

The book of Titus is a letter written from Paul to Titus at about AD66. Titus was one of Paul's converts during early years of Paul's ministry. Titus was a gentile. He was the pastor serving in the island of Crete at the time of this letter (Titus 1:5). This letter was for Titus to know the criteria of and to appoint elders (leaders) for the local churches. The key points of this book are: qualification for elders/church leaders, how Christians should live their lives, and doing good works.

Today we focus on the later part of chapter 2. I outlined 4 main steps for doing good deeds. English is not my mother language and thus some advanced words was not easy for me to understand when I was learning English. Simple words helped me to understand and remember concepts better. Thus, I make another title for each of the 4 steps and hope you can use either titles to better remember the contents.

1) Salvation (Belongs to)

Titus 2:14 and 3:3-6 clearly stated that Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness. We are sinful and have done many foolish and malice acts, enslaved by our own physical pleasures and were disobedient to God. We are saved not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through Jesus death and because He has risen, we have rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Our redemption occurred because of God's love. This redemption is the only way for us to be free from enslavement of our sinful nature and evils, and bring us back to Him. If you have not received Jesus as your savior and Lord, do so now.

In another word, make sure you belongs to God by accepting Jesus as your God, the savior and lord.

2) Purification (Cleanse for)

After you have saved as has mentioned in the first step, we need to be purified. The middle of verse 14 states "to purify for himself a people that are his very own". We can not purify ourselves. We need God's help. Verse 12 tells us to say No to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled upright and

godly lives. We need to try our best to be pure and holy with God's help. We need to be cleansed for God so that we can do good works for Him.

3) Benefaction (Act on)

The later part of Titus 2:14 states "eager to do what is good". His grace for us is the motivation for doing good. The subject of this verse is "we". But there is an adjective "eager". That means we need to be longing and yearning for this action. In another words, act on it immediately and willingly. The object of this greatly desired action is "what is good". This covers all types of good and kind deeds that benefit others (benefaction): Spiritually related deed such as deliver the Good News to others, emotionally help such as give encouragements to others and material support such as to give food and shelter to others.

4) Glorification (Point at)

The good deeds have to be done out of sincere love for God and others according to His will. John 15:5 states "we can bear much fruit when we remain in Him, otherwise we can do nothing". God supplies and supports us. Colossians 3:23-24 states "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." The results of our good works should point back at God for His glory.

How do you apply this passage to your life today? First, we must accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. Otherwise, we don't even know what is good and what is bad. Furthermore, we need to be close with God to make sure we are clean in heart so that we can see God's will. We then can have a merciful heart as Jesus, and willingly do His calling. I often have been moved (in my heart) to do volunteer work like serve homeless meal, and donate goods to those in need. I have promoted church members to start fund raising for world disasters such as earthquake, storm and war refugee relief.

I remember I went to a Mission trip with my wife and my elder son to Mexico. We spread the gospel there and built a house for a family. I also went to a mission trip to China with my wife and my second son. We spread the gospel there as well as trained them in English lessons, Christian moral values, etc. and built a wonderful relationships with the youths there. Both the youths and my family were blessed

through the trips, and most important all the glories point to God. God may call you to serve others in other ways, act on it today. May God bless you!