

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
June 9, 2024



*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."
– Ephesians 2:10*

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Matthew 5:10-16

Leader: Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

People: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

People: Rejoice and be glad,

Leader: For your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets

People: Who were before you.

Leader: You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything,

People: Except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

Leader: You are the light of the world.

People: A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

Leader: Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand,

People: And it gives light to all who are in the house.

Leader: Let your light shine before men in such a way

People: That they may see your good works,

Leader: And glorify your Father

People: Who is in heaven.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Ephesians 2:8-10

***Hymn #591** (red hymnal) – “*Jesus Calls Us*”

Scripture Reading – Exodus 20:1-17; Revelation 3:7-13

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

*Doxology #731 (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

*Sung Psalm #37C (see insert below) – “Steps a Man Takes”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Heidelberg Catechism (1563 AD), 1-2,86,91

Leader: Question #1: What is your only comfort in life and death? 1Cor 6:19-20

People: That I am not my own,

Leader: But belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, Rom 14:7-9

People: To my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. 1Cor 3:23; Titus 2:14

Leader: He has fully paid for all my sins

People: With His precious blood, 1Pet 1:18-19; 1John 1:7; 2:2

Leader: And has set me free from all the power of the devil. John 8:34-36; Heb 2:14-15; 1John 3:8

People: He also preserves me in such a way John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2Thes 3:3; 1Pet 1:5

Leader: That without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; Matt 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18

People: Indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Rom 8:28

Leader: Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on Rom 8:15-16; 2Cor 1:21, 22; 5:5; Eph 1:13-14

People: To live for Him. Rom 8:14

Leader: Question #2: What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: First, how great my sins and misery are; Rom 3:9-10; 1John 1:10

Leader: Second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43

People: Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance. Matt 5:16; Rom 6:13; Eph 5:8-10; 1Pet 2:9-10

[Continued . . .]

Leader: Question #86: Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace alone through Christ, without any merit of our own, why must we yet do good works?

People: Because Christ, having redeemed us by His blood,

Leader: Also renews us by His Holy Spirit to be in His image, so that with our whole life we may show ourselves thankful to God for His benefits,

Rom 6:13; 12:1-2;
1Pet 2:5-10

People: And He may be praised by us.

Matt 5:16; 1Cor 6:19-20

Leader: Further, that we ourselves may be assured

People: Of our faith by its fruits,

Matt 7:17-18; Gal 5:22-24;
2Pet 1:10-11

Leader: And that by our godly walk of life

People: We may win our neighbors for Christ.

Matt 5:14-16; Rom 14:17-19;
1Pet 2:12; 3:1-2

Leader: Question #91: But what are good works?

People: Only those which are done out of true faith,

John 15:5; Rom 14:23; Heb 11:6

Leader: In accordance with the law of God,

Lev18:4; 1Sam 15:22; Eph 2:10

People: And to His glory,

1Cor 10:31

Leader: And not those based on our own opinion

People: Or on precepts of men.

Deut 12:32; Is 29:13;
Ezek 20:18-19; Matt 15:7-9

Ministry of the Word – Preaching

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Titus 3:8,14

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Good Works”

A Sermon Series on Titus

***Hymn #672** (red hymnal) – “Trust and Obey”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

Announcements

- Sunday, June 16th, will be the **last day for Sunday School** until Fall. So, for **June 23rd & 30th church will start at 10:30 AM.** For **July & August** it will start at **9:30 AM.**
- Pastor Doug plans to preach a mini-series on **sermon requests** this summer. If you have any biblical, theological, historical, moral, and/or cultural questions relating to the Christian faith please email him (douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net) or put your written request in the collection plate. Please, only one request per person. This Fall we will return to our norm of expository preaching, working our way through a section of the Old Testament Law.

Leadership

Teaching & Preaching Elder: Pastor Doug Aldrich
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Ruling Elders: Bob Ensminger
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Deacons: David Mattson (*chair*), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell,
Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

Music Coordinator & Treasurer: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann

Sunday School: Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell

Sermon Notes

Titus 3:8
"Good Works"
A Sermon Series on Titus
June 9, 2024

Introduction

1) We have been going through, in detail, Titus 3:3-8.

- a) The great conclusion to the Apostle Paul's instructions to the pastor Titus.
- b) Focusing on the Gospel which is the power of God. Rom 1:16; 1Cor 1:18,24
- c) Titus 3:3-8 is one of the great short, yet profound, descriptions of the Gospel and a great witnessing tool. (The other is Ephesians 2:1-10)

2) It follows the classical pattern¹:

- a) *First*, you have to understand the **problem: Sin**.

Titus 3:3 – *"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another."*

¹ As the Heidelberg Catechism, Q#2, puts it:

Question: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Answer: Three things:

First, how great my sin and misery are; (Rom 3:9-10; 1John 1:10)

Second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; (2John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43)

Third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance. (Matt 5:16; Rom 6:13; Eph 5:8-10; 2Tim2:15; 1Pet 2:9-10)

This pattern of **Repent - Believe - Follow** is found in:

Ps 107:17-19a - Ps 107:19b-20 - Ps 107:21-22

Mark 1:15a - Mark 1:15b - Mark 1:16-17

John 3:9-13 - John 3:14-18 - John 3:19-21

John 6:36 - John 6:37-65 - John 6:66-69

Rom 1:18-3:20 - Rom 3:21-4:25 - Rom 5:1-15:33

Rom 3:19-20 - Rom 3:21-30 - Rom 3:31

Rom 5:6-8a - Rom 5:8b-10 - Rom 5:11

1Cor 6:9-10 - 1Cor 6:11 - 1Cor 6:12

Eph 2:1-3 - Eph 2:4-9 - Eph 2:10

Titus 3:3 - Titus 3:4-7 - Titus 3:8

b) *Next*, to know the **solution: Salvation in Christ**.

Titus 3:4-7 – *“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

c) *Finally*, the **outcome** of such a salvation: **Good works**.

Titus 3:8 – *“This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.”*

3) I have been arguing the order is critical.

a) That you can't skip steps.

b) If you water down the first step, you will compromise the second and not do the third.

c) Today, let's ponder this.

d) Besides, the correct order is the best, most joyous, easiest, and the only way to do good works.

Good Works in Titus

1) In one sense good works are obvious.

a) Few would be surprised if they heard in church: To believe in God, go to church, pray, read the Bible, honor your parents, don't steal or lie, love your neighbor as ourselves, etc.

b) Even atheists get after the saints when we Christians don't do these things.

2) Titus, though only three chapters long, speaks a lot about good works.

a) To give a list of the positive things, Christians *should have*: sound **faith** (1:1,9; 2:2,10), consideration for their neighbor (3:2), gentleness (3:2), godliness (1:1; 2:12), hope (1:2), knowledge of the truth (1:1), love for what is good (1:8; 2:2), perseverance (2:2), purity (2:5), purity in doctrine (2:7), reverence (2:3), righteousness (2:12), self-control (1:8), soundness in speech (2:8), temperance (2:2), etc.

b) Also, Christians *should be*: supportive of the church (1:5,10-11), above reproach (1:6,7), devout (1:8), dignified (2:7), hospitable (1:8), just (1:8), peaceable (3:2), sensible (1:8; 2:2,5-6,12), subject to authority (2:9; 3:1), supportive of family (1:6; 2:3-5), etc.

c) Again, no big surprises.

i) Maybe for modern Americans the submission to authority might be surprising.

ii) Or, that doctrinal purity is a good work, but more about that in a bit.

iii) Few understand how Christians should be motivated to do good works.

3) In our sermon text, and skipping down to verse 14, we read: *“This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men . . . Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.”* – Titus 3:8,14

4) This is Paul repeating himself, he already said something very similar in Titus 2:14-15 – *“who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”*

- 5) *Note*: This is the main focus of Christian preaching.
- a) Remember, Titus is part of the “Pastoral Epistles” (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus), those letters from the Apostle Paul to pastors on how to organize and govern the church.
 - b) The pastor/elder is to “*speak confidently*” (Titus 3:8) and “*these things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*” (Titus 2:14)
 - c) So, the main job of Christian preaching is to get Christians to do things?
 - i) No, not really.
 - Though many modern Evangelicals fall into the trap of thinking that is what good preaching is about.
 - Basically, a hip relevant practical self-help “Ted Talk” to create nice people who will grow the church in numbers and financially.
 - That is not at all what biblical preaching should be.
 - ii) It is true, however, good works are the outcome/by-product of Christian preaching.
- 6) The focus of preaching, however, begins someplace else, or more accurately about Someone else.
- a) Where did Titus 2:14 begin?
 - i) With Christ and His Gospel!
 - ii) Titus 2:13b-14 – “*our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*”
 - b) Or, in Titus 3:8, what does the “*this is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently*” refer to?
 - i) At the very least, what came before!
(Remember: Context, Context, Context!)
 - ii) Good works come from faith in Christ.

 Again, as Paul writes, “*I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds*” – Titus 3:8b
 - iii) Sunday morning preaching is for the saints not the world.
 - iv) First faith then good works.
 - c) Having believed in what? What Paul just described in Titus 3:4-7
 Salvation is solely by the kindness of God by His Grace.
 We have been regenerated / born again.
 Given the Holy Spirit in a special way Who then gives us faith.
 Knowing this salvation is only through Jesus Christ our Savior.
 Thus, faith in Christ alone makes us justified and heirs.
 - d) Now that is a trustworthy statement that a preacher should speak confidently about!
 - e) You have to get your doctrine right in order to do good works.
 - i) As Paul tells Pastor Titus . . .
 - ii) “*In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.*” – Titus 2:7-8
 - f) Preaching is literally “heralding” and a “preacher”, in the New Testament, is literally “a herald” – an official who publicly proclaims the King, His will, and His way.

	Rom 10:14;
	1Tim 2:7;
	2Tim 1:11

- g) That is why Paul can say to the troubled Corinthians, “*And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*” – 1Cor 2:1-2 (ESV)

Why & How To Do Good Works?

- 1) Why do we (Christians) do good works?
And how should we do them?
- 2) Certainly not by trying to earn our regeneration, justification or adoption. Eph 2:1-3
 - a) Think how horrible that would be!
 - b) How does a (spiritually) dead person make themselves alive?
 - c) How does a murderer earn an innocent verdict?
 - d) How does a child of Satan and an enemy of God become adopted?
- 3) We do good works because we *have been* (past-tense completed work in Christ!) regenerated, justified & adopted!
 - a) If you have been made anew by Christ from the inside, how can you not do good works?
 - i) If you were facing death and miraculously given new life, wouldn't you appreciate life even more?
 - ii) Even more so if you were actually (spiritually) dead.
 - iii) Remember the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Luke 15:11-32
 - b) If you have been justified by Christ, how can you not do good works?
 - i) Condemned criminals get the sword. Innocent citizens are allowed to live freely by the customs and laws of that kingdom.
 - ii) Imagine going to the principal's office completely guilty and instead of getting judgment you were set free – Wouldn't you rejoice and behave?
 - c) If you have been adopted and made heirs of all of Christ's Kingdom how can you not do good works?
 - i) Going from a hateful, abusive, and destitute family to the household of a loving King.
 - ii) To a Father who loves you and you respond in love and godly fear.
(Fear out of not wanting to disappoint the Father who loves you.)
 - iii) Even better, all our works have been sanctified, made holy and pleasing to our Heavenly Father because they have been covered by the blood of Christ!
 - iv) Like very young children trying to help their Father, though their efforts are feeble, they please their Father.
- 4) Note the critical difference: Christians are doing good works out of thanksgiving and hope!
 - a) What a beautiful place to be in to do good works!
 - b) Why?
 - i) Because we (Christians) get the order right because we have correct doctrine!
 - ii) Because we (humanity) are fallen and are by nature spiritually Eph 2:1-2
dead, an enemy of God and a child of Satan!
 - iii) We (Christians) know we have been redeemed solely through Christ and solely because of God's (undeserved) grace and kindness.
 - c) Because of this, we do good works out of thanksgiving.

Getting the Order Wrong

- 1) If you get the order wrong everything goes to hell, and I mean that literally.
- 2) Good works outside of Christ are worthless.
 - a) How does a spiritually dead, child of Satan who hates God do works that please God?
 - b) Those works are just a mockery of God and His Law.
 - i) If you are going to try to work your way to heaven there is only one standard: Perfection because God is perfect. Ex 15:26; Lev 19:2; Deut 18:13; 28:1-2; Matt 5:48; 22:37-39
 - ii) Also, they will not be done correctly, but instead by the whims of worldly tradition. (See the Pharisees.) Mark 7:1-13
 - iii) They are done out of arrogant rebellion, devoid of the Holy Spirit, and will bring only further judgment.
 - c) Isaiah 64:6 – *“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”*
 - d) Remember Titus 3:5 – *“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”*
 - i) Our good works by themselves will never justify us with God.
 - ii) We have to be declared righteous by Christ’s good work.
 - iii) Which we have been going through in detail by looking at Titus 3:4-7
- 3) Look at 1Corinthians 6:9-11
 - a) *“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.”* – 1Cor 6:9-10
 - b) Note what follows:
 - i) Not, *“and therefore you must try harder to earn your salvation.”*
 - ii) Instead it reads: *“Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”* – 1Cor 6:11
- 4) Getting the order right is everything.

What Good Works?

- 1) You might say: Amen! However, what good works should we be doing?
(I really, really like lists!)
- 2) *Answer:* God’s Moral Law.
 - a) As the Lord Jesus taught: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”* – Matthew 22:37b-40.
 - b) This is a summation of the Ten Commandments, which all Christians should know, do and meditate on. Ex 20; Deut 5; Ps 119:15,48

c) Our Westminster Larger Catechism is an amazing study of the Ten Commandments as proscribed throughout Scripture.²

i) Teaching what the narrow meaning of a commandment means, its broader implications and if in the negative, how to do the opposite. Which is much fruit from the Spirit.

Gal 5:22-23

ii) Example: Commandment #6 – Thou shall not murder.

- Means not to murder people.
- It also means not to engage in those things like murder: Assault, violence, anger, etc.
- And it means to do the opposite of it, to do things that give life. (Charity, generosity, forgiving, turning the other cheek)
- My adult Sunday School class will be studying this in the Fall.
- Also, this fall I plan to start a sermon series on a section of the OT Law.

3) Just think of the first four of the Ten Commandments that deal with the worship of God.

a) The world completely ignores them and they still think they are good.

b) Yet when you get the order right (sin – Savior – thanksgiving) how can you not go to church?

4) Always remember, however, the Law is the not the power of God.
It is the Gospel!

Rom 1:16-17

Phil 4:1-9

² Especially Questions #93-151.