

## INTRODUCTION

1. Tit 2:11-14. Paul's emphasis on *good deeds* in Titus. Tonite - *zealous*...

## 1st: Why Are Good Deeds So Important?

1. Self-deception & false profession. Tit 1:15-16 not purified but disqualified - 1C 9:27; Lk 6:46-49. Gal 6:7-10 sow-reap - TF *do good*
2. Immediate purposes: LBC 16.2 note allusion to Eph 2:10.
3. Ultimate purpose: in Final Judgment.
  - i. Rom 2:6-8 evidence = *deeds, doing good* - v13 justified = "validated, vindicated, verified" - living faith produces fruit. [1T 5:24-25].
  - ii. 2C 5:10 deeds done = actual life lived. The regenerated Xn will produce harvestable fruit & be *recompensed* [rewarded]. Tit 3:14 urges good deeds *s that we may not be unfruitful*.
  - iii. LBC 16:6 - Final Judgment is day of rewards for Xn's fruitful life.
    - a. We are forgiven - will not face punishment [1Jn 4:18] - rejoice!
    - b. How much & what kind of rewards? Crown; inheritance [land]; [Rv 21:7]. Gospel motivates to good deeds in view of rewards!
  - iv. Our rewards redound to glory of Jesus our Savior - Ps 115:1.
  - v. Why are good works so important? IIIrd - name & honor of Jesus.

2nd: How Can We Live Lives of Good Deeds? - LBC 16:3

1. Dependent on HS: 1st half of paragraph. cf. Ezek 36:26-7; Eph 2:10.
2. Diligent resolute action: 2nd half of paragraph. cf. Col 1:29; Phil 4:13. "Diligent dependence"

## 3rd: We Need to Be Zealous for Good Deeds

1. Lack of zeal is not due to personality type: it is sin. Rv 3:15-16 lukewarm. v19 Jesus *reproves* & calls for *repentance* - *be zealous* = same root as *hot* in v15 [Eng: zest]. Apathetic Xns offend Jesus. He deserves our love.

2. Zeal is qualified by it's direct object: "Zealous for what?" Xn zeal is the engine of love that drives Xn life lived for glory of Christ - again IIIrd.
3. There is dangerous misguided zeal.
4. Biblical zeal [Joel Beeke *Living Zealously*]
  - i. God-centered: Ps 119:139-140 Grief & righteous anger
  - ii. Biblical - Rom 10:2.
  - iii. Self-reforming - seek undivided heart [Prv 4:23].
  - iv. Active & constant - not emotionalism of Rocky, but a constant principle of love that endures.
  - v. Sweet & Gentle - as was Jesus' zeal
  - vi. Lk 24:32 - hearts burning w/ love for Jesus & truth & Kingdom
5. How can we increase our zeal?
  - i. Keep eye of faith on Jesus - Hb 12:1
  - ii. Pray w/ faith & hope
  - iii. Engage heart when Word is opened
  - iv. Faithful churchmanship - Hb 10:23-25; 2C 9:2
  - v. Get into the fight
  - vi. Be prepared to be misunderstood - Paul: A 26:24; 2C 5:13; 1C 4:10; Jesus: Mrk 3:21; Jn 10:20. Insane?
6. Xns in Cretan culture [Tit 1:12] - lazy self-indulgence - are called to *be zealous for good works*.
  - i. Don't be intimidated by the terrible "too".
  - ii. Will Jesus ever tell us that we are *too* zealous?
  - iii. Mat 5:13-16. AMEN