

# “BE READY FOR EVERY GOOD DEED”

TITUS 2:15-3:2

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## INTRODUCTION

We get too caught up in the “stuff” of life and forget the basics—what is really important. What is important to

God is not all that difficult to understand—we make it overly complicated.

God’s grace has brought us salvation (2:11) and has taught us to totally renounce ungodliness and worldly desires (12) and to live with self-control, righteousness, and godliness in this present evil age (12). It has also enabled us to eagerly look for the appearing of glory of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ when we will be rewarded for our godly living (13). After all, such was the purpose of the redemptive work of Christ—redeeming us from every lawless deed and purifying us to be a special people for Himself—a people who are zealous for good works.

In these next three verses Paul picks up again on this common theme of the Pastoral Epistles of “good deeds” when he tells the Christians through Titus that they must “be ready for every good deed.” In fact, Paul commands Titus to regularly **speak**, **exhort**, and **reprove** the believers with all the apostolic authority found within the teachings based on Sacred Scriptures (2:15). However, Paul’s focus in 2:1-2 now switches to some specific areas of “good deeds”—those in relation to civil government and to society in general, even unbelievers.

Once you experience the grace of God you must be a person **zealous for good works** and must also **be ready for every good deed**.

## YOU MUST BE READY FOR EVERY GOOD DEED.

- I. PREACHER—DO YOUR JOB (2:15)
  - A. Be Speaking—teaching—these things
  - B. Be Exhorting—comforting, challenging, encouraging—about these things.
  - C. Be Rebuking, reproofing, convincing believers of these things.
  - D. Use the apostolic authority found in Holy Scripture—accurate exposition of.
  - E. Let your teaching and life be such that not one can with good reason “think down upon” you; cf. I Tim. 4:12—“let no one despise your youth.”
- II. CHRISTIAN CITIZEN—DO YOUR JOB (3:1)
  - A. Be in Subjection
    1. This Teaching has been commonly given [“remember”]—e.g. Rom. 13:1ff; I Tim. 2:1-4.
    2. This submission is in relation to human “rulers.”
    3. These rulers have divinely given “authority.”
  - B. Be Obedient
    - Pay your taxes.
    - Practice orderly behavior.

- Keep the laws of the lands.
  - Be honest in your business.
- C. Be Ready for every Good Deed.
- Can include disaster relief, aid in wartime troubles, etc.
  - Could involve campaigning for moral justice.
  - Could involve serving in government office.
  - Christianity must be a constructive force in society.
  - Our heavenly citizenship does not absolve us from earthly citizenship responsibilities.
- III. CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR—DO YOUR JOB ( 3:2)
- A. Don't use abusive language [blaspheme] against anyone.
- B. Be Non-combative, uncontentious—don't pick fights or jump into fights.
- A quality of an elder in I Tim. 3:3.
- C. Be Gentle—ready to yield one's rights, give up personal advantage—**sweet reasonableness.**
- Also a quality of an elder in I Tim. 3:3.
  - A quality of Christ in II Cor. 10:1—noun form.
  - At times ignoring the "letter of the law" in the interest of kindness and mercy.
  - One who has this quality will rectify and redress "the injustices of justice."
- D. Demonstrating *consideration, gentleness, meekness, courtesy.*
- A quality of Christ in Mt. 11:29.
  - The third beatitude—"blessed are the meek."
  - Not weakness, but controlled strength. This quality is a relative of humility.
  - The "meek" horse is one that is trained and tamed—not weak; it has been brought under control.
  - The man who is meek has a temper, but it is God controlled.
  - The believer can face injustices and evils and be under control.
1. Show **all** meekness—the greatest possible manifestation of this grace.
  2. Show this **to all men**—not merely to fellow Christians
- It would be much easier to display some mildness toward some people, or all mildness toward some people, or even some mildness toward all people; but to display **all mildness toward all people** is asking a great deal more! **Even toward those who are hostile, and toward those who are morally perverse.***

## CONCLUSION

Does this description fit the behavior of most Christians toward "the world"?

*Tear apart those heathen! Put them in their place. Tell them like it is.*

Paul's attitude is, "The Love of Christ controls us."

Christians ought to be the **best citizens**; Christians ought to be the **best neighbors**.

Preachers must be the **best teachers, exhorters, givers of rebuke**.

**YOU MUST BE READY FOR EVERY GOOD DEED.**