*When God created us, He made kids, not a choir; family members, not church members. He's into love, not liturgy. Too often we make worship simply a segment of a service, rather than a time to become intimate with Jesus.*

Dutch Sheets

---

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia
PRAYER STUDY #482
**TITUS PART THREE**

# Godly Living

## CITIZENSHIP

**3** *Remind people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready and willing to do good,* **2** *to slander or abuse no one, to be kind and conciliatory and gentle, showing unqualified consideration and courtesy toward everyone.*

To submit to those in authority over us is a Christian duty. The only exception for me is doing something that goes against the Word of God. This admonition was especially relevant to the people in Crete because they had a reputation of being quarrelsome and rebellious against authority. We, as Christians, are exhorted to be gentle and kind and courteous towards everyone, whether they are Christians or not, whether we like them or not, and whether they are nice to us in return or not.

## SINNERS

**3** *For we too once were foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various sinful desires and pleasures, spending and wasting our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*

We must always remember from where we came. We once were lost and on our way to hell and no

doubt in thought or action like the heathen around us. This, however, does not make us proud but makes us grateful to God. As we look at those around us who are not there yet, we must remember the words of the great Methodist missionary, George Whitfield: "There but for the grace of God go I."

JUSTIFICATION

***4*** *But when the goodness and kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared [in human form as the Man, Jesus Christ],* ***5*** *He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but because of His own compassion and mercy, by the cleansing of the new birth (spiritual transformation, regeneration) and renewing by the Holy Spirit,* ***6*** *whom He poured out richly upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior,* ***7*** *so that we would be justified [made free of the guilt of sin] by His [compassionate, undeserved] grace, and that we would be [acknowledged as acceptable to Him and] made heirs of eternal life [actually experiencing it] according to our hope (His guarantee).*

Men once cringed in terror and fear before the presence of God. Then Jesus came and showed us that God was a Father, with an open heart and in love with His children. We can not earn our salvation but because of the mercy and grace of God can receive salvation through the power of the blood of Jesus, becoming heirs of eternal life and being justified, just as if we had never sinned. Romans 5:9: *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath from Him.*

FINAL CHARGES

*8 This is a faithful and trustworthy saying; and concerning these things I want you to speak with great confidence, so that those who have believed God [that is, those who have trusted in, relied on, and accepted Christ Jesus as Savior,] will be careful to participate in doing good and honorable things. These things are excellent [in themselves] and profitable for the people. 9 But avoid foolish and ill-informed and stupid controversies and genealogies and dissensions and quarrels about the Law, for they are unprofitable and useless. 10 After a first and second warning reject a divisive man [who promotes heresy and causes dissension—ban him from your fellowship and have nothing more to do with him], 11 well aware that such a person is twisted and is sinning; he is convicted and self-condemned [and is gratified by causing confusion among believers].*

Paul is telling us here that although Christians are saved by grace and not by works, this does not excuse us from performing good works. Furthermore, we should be careful in maintaining to do good works.

The second part of this passage deals with useless discussions. The Jewish Rabbis, for example, spent hours upon hours discussing what could and could not be done on the Sabbath and what was and was not unclean. Paul believed that the real task for Christians was Christian action. There is a place for discussion, but that discussion should always end in action. Paul warned to avoid discussions that are foolish and unprofitable.

Heretics came to be defined as those who decided they were right and everybody else is wrong. Their opinions caused separations from fellowship with

other believers, and their views had no real scriptural basis. Paul says to warn these heretics twice and then separate from them if they do not change. Again, these are people who think their opinions are right even when those opinions are obviously in opposition to the Word of God.

Personal Concerns

*12 When I send Artemas or [perhaps] Tychicus to you,*
*make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I*
*have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Do your*
*best to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their*
*way; see that they are supplied and lack nothing.*
*14 Our people must learn to do good deeds to meet*
*necessary demands [whatever the occasion may*
*require], so that they will not be unproductive.*
*15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who*
*love us in the faith.*
*Grace be with all of you.*

Paul ends his letter with personal messages and greetings. His last piece of advice is that Christian people should learn how and practice doing good deeds. The final greeting is a benediction to the letter.