

Making a Difference in a Pagan World

Titus 3:1-8

Christian citizens are to be an influence for good in the community in every way. That is the apostle Paul's emphasis in Titus 3:1-8. In his letter to a young pastor, Paul has been stressing to Titus that sound doctrine should lead to good works. In chapter 1, he taught Titus about choosing church leaders based on their character qualities, and that their responsibility is to teach sound doctrine and confront false teachers. In chapter 2, Paul explained that Christ followers are to live respectable and dignified lives because of God's grace. Now, in chapter 3, Paul turns his attention to how Christ followers are to live and witness in society.

In order to be an influence for good in the world, we need to remember four things:

Remember your Duty (1-2)

Willingly place yourself under and obey those in authority

Be ready to do good

Don't complain, criticize, or argue

Pursue peace in a gentle manner

Act with courtesy and consideration toward all people

Remember your Past (3)

Before Christ, we were just as foolish, lost, trapped, and angry as our pagan neighbors

Remember your Salvation (4-7)

"But when" introduces a seismic shift in our lives

We are saved by grace

The Holy Spirit is active in salvation

Through justification we became members of God's family and heirs

Remember your Mission (8)

As Christ followers, we are to be devoted to doing good in this world

Suggestions for “good works” in the community

Volunteer in your child’s classroom at school; get involved in the PTSA; volunteer for a school field trip

Coach a youth sports team—soccer, football, basketball, Little League baseball, lacrosse, etc.; encourage the players; referee or umpire the games with integrity and dignity

Host a neighborhood block party on Memorial Day or the 4th of July

Do yard work for a senior citizen in your neighborhood

Volunteer at the Senior Center

Start your own list