

Titus – “Hold fast the faithful word”

Session 13

March 17, 2020

**“The foolishness of self-justification”**

In contrast to the man who **“maintains good works”** as a response to the grace God has poured out in his life (3:3-8), the man who’s thinking is **“warped”** (perverted) tries to justify himself by the law. He causes divisiveness by constantly arguing the fine points of the law; to no profit. Such a one actually condemns himself, for **“by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight”** (Romans 3:20). This is why Paul exhorts Titus to **“affirm constantly”** the grace and mercy of God. Use this lesson to examine your own heart before God to be sure that your thinking is not warped in this area. Are you a man who lives by faith in the grace of God alone, or have you fallen into **“useless”** striving to justify yourself by the works of the law?

**Passage:** Titus 3:9-11 (NKJV)

**Personal Study Time Questions:**

**Scripture: Romans 3:19-20**

What is the true purpose of the law according to verse 19? What is God’s verdict on **“all the world”** when their life is held up to the law? What does verse 20 conclude **“therefore”**?

**Scripture: Titus 3:9**

What does Paul call **“disputes”** and **“strivings”** about the law, and what should be our response to them, and why?

**Scripture: Titus 3:10; 2 Timothy 2:23**

What does Paul say we are to do with the one who won't stop arguing over the law? In 2 Timothy, what does Paul say such a person will **"generate"** (cause) if he is not stopped?

**Scripture: Titus 3:11**

What does Paul say **"such a person is"**? So then, rather than being self-justified, what is such a person?

**Personal meditation time with Jesus:**

What a sharp contrast we find in Titus 3:3-11 between the one who is **"justified by grace"** (v.3-8) and the one who seeks justification by the law. With that contrast in mind, take some time to carefully and prayerfully read through Romans 8:1-17 and look for the different results of one who lives by the Spirit and God's grace versus by the flesh (self-effort of the law). Examine your own life as honestly as you can. Have you been more **"spiritually minded"** or **"carnally minded"**? If the latter, then spend some time praying to God and asking the Holy Spirit to make you a more Spirit-led man. Ask Him to show you areas of your life where you depend on your own strength and to help you **"trust in the Lord in all your ways"**!

**Hide God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):**

"But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless."

Titus 3:9