

Titus 3:3-8 (I'm 4-7, but felt 3 and were needed for context)

<sup>3</sup>For **we ourselves were once** foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures  
passing our days in malice and envy,  
hated by others and hating one another.

<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

<sup>5</sup>**He saved us**

Not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy**,

By the washing of regeneration

And the renewal of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>6</sup>Whom **he poured out** on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior

<sup>7</sup>So that **being justified by his grace**

we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

<sup>8</sup>The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to **insist on these things**,

so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Main Idea:

**He Saved Us to Work.**

Outline:

1. Not by our works. (v.5)
  - a. We were like everyone else (v.3)
  - b. But then His goodness and kindness appeared (v.4)
2. According to His Mercy (v.5)
  - a. Washed us with regeneration (by God the Father)
  - b. Renewed us with the Holy Spirit, (v.6)
  - c. Justified by His Grace (through Jesus' work) (v.7)
  - d. So that we could be joint-heirs with him (v.7)
3. Saved for Good works (v.8)
  - a. Insist on "these" things
  - b. Devote yourselves to good works

Sermon rough draft

Good Morning!

It is so wonderful to be here with you today, worshipping together, celebrating our brotherhood in the family of our Almighty King.

If there's someone here who I haven't met just yet, my name is Onan Coca, and I am one of the elders in training here at Highlands Community Church. That terminology may sound odd to someone who hasn't spent much time here in our congregation, so I'll unpack it for you. Two years ago, our Pastor – Jody May – approached me and told me that he needed men in our church to help him do his work. I thought, “sure, I'll help!”. Little did I know that what he meant was he was going to disciple me, push me out of my comfort zone, and ask me to do things that an introvert like me would rather not do. Things like talking to people.

It's been a stressful two years. But it's also been a time of blessing and growth for my family and me.

After spending time in Titus over the last few months, I've realized that while I felt like I was obeying my Pastor, he was actually just obeying what God had to say through Paul in the book of Titus!

What a joyous revelation. To realize that my family and I are living proof that our Pastor is hard at work being obedient to Scripture and serving our local body well.

Before we jump into our passage today, let's begin by reminding ourselves “why” we've spent the last few months studying the book of Titus together.

**Titus 2:11-12 ESV**

*“For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, [12] **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.**”*

**The Gospel SAVES, TRAINS, and FUELS us to LIVE on the Great Commission!**

We'll see how it does all of these things today!

Over the last two weeks Brothers Mike and Glenn have taught us from Titus 3:1-3 about our role in the world and about how we should live in light of verses 1-3.

Today, I have the joy (and trepidation) of opening God's Word with you as we continue on in Titus 3. But even more – I am so pleased to have the opportunity to share the most fantastic bit of news that this world has ever heard.

And I do mean **EVER**.

The passage we'll be studying today mirrors Titus 2:11-12 quite closely and offers an insider's look into how God has and continues to accomplish the task He set forth there.

Please turn to Titus chapter 3 with me. We'll be reading verses 3-8 this morning. And if you will, please stand with me in respect for the reading of God's Holy, Infallible, and Perfect Word.

### Titus 3:3-8

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

This is God's Word. Let's Pray.

*Holy Father, we thank you for your goodness toward us. We thank you for the opportunity to gather today, freely, with our brothers and sisters to worship you in Spirit and in Truth. Please, fill this place with your Spirit. Use your servant to speak only what you have said. Soften the hearts of your people to hear your message in Titus. I pray that your Word would be front-and-center today, that your Son would be glorified for the work that He has done on our behalf, and that we, your people would leave here today renewed in the power of your Spirit to carry your Gospel into our community and beyond.*

*For we love you and we thank you for first loving us. Amen.*

I've already told you a little bit about me, but at the risk of providing too much information, I'll tell you a bit more. I'm a bit of a nerd. I'm not "Pastor Bill levels of nerdy," but one of my favorite pastimes is reading history books - even textbooks! In fact, I've recently finished reading a book about life in the city of Vienna from 1888 to 1889! As I said, nerd.

Recently, they made a movie out of one of my favorite stories from World War Two, the film (which is based on a book by the same name) was called *Operation Mincemeat*, and while it's not exactly accurate as it relates to the personal lives of those involved, it does get the primary historical points right.

I hope this won't spoil the movie for you, but I'm pretty sure that most of you already know that the Allies won WW2, so I'm not too worried.

The movie centers on a small team of British soldiers and civilians working to support the war effort in Europe. The group is hard at work planning a ruse that will hopefully trick the Nazis into believing that the Allies will soon be landing in Greece when in reality, they'll be landing in Italy. The movie is pushed along by the reality that the plot is far-fetched, likely not to be believed, but at the same time VITAL to the war effort... the group *has* to get Hitler to believe their lie, otherwise, tens of thousands of allied troops will likely die. As we reach the movie's climax, the team based in England waits silently, gathered around a telegraph machine. The tension is thick as each one worries that their plan has failed and their boys are getting massacred as they try to land on the beaches of Sicily. They knew it was a longshot to begin with, but they had hoped so dearly it would work.

And then, after a few worrying hours, the telegraph begins typing, and one of the group picks up the ticker tape and reads

***"Limited casualties." "Enemy retreating." "Troops met with minimal resistance."  
"Beaches held."***

What amazing news! This project they had planned and worked on for weeks, with such heavy consequences in the balance, had been a success. This secret group of people, in a basement in London, had singlehandedly saved tens of thousands of lives. The movie's tension breaks as a wave of relief floods the scene and invariably, those of us watching as well.

Good news like this should make our hearts soar... but this good news does not even come close to touching the good news that we hear in the pages of Titus. It does not come close to the waves of relief and hope that should fill us, from the words we'll read today.

This good news shared in Titus has saved and will save MILLIONS. And it doesn't stop there. The good news in Titus trains and fuels those it saves to do something. And The good news in Titus even tells us the "WHY" of our salvation! How marvelous!

So, I'll just skip to the end and tell you what the good news is... **the good news is that "He, Jesus, Saved Us!"**

It might feel like I've done this backward and given you the end of the story first, but I really feel like you need to know what the good news is so that I can explain to you WHY it's such good news and WHAT you should do about it.

Let's get started!

So the good news is that He saved us, and the operative word here is "He." He did it. Not us. Which brings me to the first point in my outline, He Saved Us, but it's not because of our works.

### **He Saved Us – Not by our Works**

No, Titus 3:3 says

*<sup>3</sup>For **we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures***

*passing our days in malice and envy,*

*hated by others and hating one another.*

See, we were just like everyone else. And by everyone else, I mean the rebels who remain outside the kingdom. The people you see around you blindly grasping for contentment every day and failing to find it anywhere. Those who continue to be lost in their sin for eternity. This is how Scripture puts it:

**Ephesians 2:1 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...**

**Colossians 2:13 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses...**

**Dead.** A dead person cannot, of themselves, do anything. They're dead. It's the nature of death not to be able to do much. No, we weren't physically dead, but our separation from God made us as powerless in our efforts to save ourselves as though we were literally, physically 6-feet under.

Even worse, we weren't just dead; we were actively fighting against God's kingdom. We "were" foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, living in malice, envy, and hate. That's how the world is, and that's how we **were**.

Y'all. There is nothing special about me. About us. We were just like everyone else. We couldn't save ourselves, just like our lost neighbors cannot save themselves.

Which begs the question, 'If we **were** just like everyone else, what happened?' I'm glad you asked.

Verse 4 explains –

***<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,***

This is what happened. The goodness and loving kindness of God appeared. How good and loving is our God? Let's see.

Exodus 34:6 says

***"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness..."***

1 Chronicles 16:34 tells us to

***"give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"***

In **Psalm 145** (verses 2-9), David praises our good God, saying

***2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. (Church, we will never run out of reason to praise our King!)***

***3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. (You want to hear something that will blow your mind? The reality of eternity, and of how awesome our God is – is this – we will live for all eternity with Him... and***

we will NEVER fully comprehend everything about our God! His greatness is unsearchable!)

*4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.* (This is why our church works so hard on our foundations program, God has commanded believers throughout history to teach the next generation about His mightiness! I am not an isolated individual. I am the product of generations of faithful men and women. I can trace back my family's godly heritage for over 100 years! I often pray that my children will be as blessed as I have been and that 100 years from now, their children and their children's children may look back to me and wonder at God's glorious goodness. That they might awe at His faithfulness to our family. Oh, I pray for this!)

*5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.* (Each day we should naturally spend time thinking about all the good things God has done for us.)

*6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.* (We should be reminding each other about all the good things God has done for us! Together, as a group, we should be singing God's praises in our community.)

*8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.* (What glorious good news that is.)

*9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.* (He is good to all, not just us, and He pours mercy out graciously on every person... even those in terrible rebellion. Theologians generally call this "common grace.")

**What a contrast!** We spend our days in malice, envy, and hate while our God shows us love, kindness, and mercy! Oh Christian, let's be like our God and not like those lost in hate!

So, we were just like everyone else. We were lost in our sin. So lost in fact that the Bible described us as **DEAD**, which is pretty bad.

Unlike the Allies in WW2, who were hoping in a “well-devised” plan. Someone who is dead has NO HOPE because they are unable to do anything for themselves - **BUT** then our good and loving God appeared. He changed everything for us.

Our God is not only good, kind, and loving. He is merciful.

The second point is multi-faceted, but essentially, it's this - **He Saved Us - According to His Mercy.**

Titus 3 Verse 5 tells us:

*He saved us, Not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, By the washing of regeneration And the renewal of the Holy Spirit,*

Here Paul uses the imagery of baptismal washing to signify our regeneration. Not that baptism is what cleanses us, but it signals to the world that we have been cleansed. More than that, though, Paul's words here give us an amazing insight into HOW our God works salvation in us.

Again, notice that it's not our works that save us – it is His mercy, by His grace, that He saves us. (Remember, Mercy is “not getting what we deserve,” and Grace is “getting what we don't deserve.”) How?

- a. By regenerating us - So that we can believe in faith (justification)
- b. By renewing us with the Holy Spirit - So that we can be holy (sanctification)

Regeneration, or Justification, is a once-for-all time event. Once accomplished, it cannot be undone. The word Justification is a “legal” term, and the Bible likens to a legal proceeding, we stood in the courtroom of God's justice, and He declared us “Not Guilty” because of the work of His Son, Jesus.

Let's go back to **Ephesians chapter 2, this time in verse 8** –

***For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,***

So, if we are washed in regeneration, it is the grace of regeneration that gives us the power to believe in faith!

But the Lord doesn't just regenerate our hearts to give us the faith to obey. No, in His **MERCY**, He gives even MORE! Again, in **verse 5 of Titus 3,**



*He saved us, Not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy, By the washing of regeneration And the renewal of the Holy Spirit,***

He “renews” us with the Holy Spirit. **This renewal is an all-of-life, every single day matter, and it is what we call “Sanctification”.** The Christian’s entire life should be marked by a progressive or continued sanctification. Scripture tells us that the more mature we become in the faith, the more like Christ we will be. Sanctification continues until the day we die and meet our Heavenly Father.

Weeks ago, Pastor Jody explained that Paul tells Titus that “*Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons*”, and that Titus should find family men who display counter-cultural characteristics or characteristics that are the polar opposite of the average Cretan man.

In short, Paul tells Titus to find “holy” men. Men who are “set apart” from the rest of Cretan society. You might have wondered how a Christian living in a place like Crete could be the things that Titus is supposed to look be looking for. How can a Christian live as a Christian should in a place as rotten and ugly as Crete?

It’s a good question, and its one you might even ask about us, living in our culture today.

June was “pride” month around the Western world. It’s a month when the culture around us celebrates a particular sin. During the month, I’m sure you saw some obvious and alarming examples of what our culture expects you to think and say. Maybe you read about parents dragging their elementary-age children to strip clubs to see ‘drag queens’ performing? Maybe you heard stories about men dressed as women reading explicit books to children in a public library? Perhaps you noticed that your favorite shoe company, sports team, video game, magazine, or other company was promoting a lifestyle that Scripture clearly calls sin. Maybe you noticed the world stealing and misusing a symbol that faithful believers have held sacred for millennia – the rainbow. You may have been disheartened, saddened, and upset over these things. It might even make you wonder how you can live like a Christian in such a culture as this?

Here’s the answer. It’s the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Where the washing of regeneration only occurs once, the renewal of the Holy Spirit is a constant work, lasting a lifetime. God, in His mercy, has provided us with the Holy Spirit to

sanctify and grow us to be more like His Son. Counterintuitively, He is sanctifying us into His Son's image **through** having us live in a culture devoid of faith! In fact, He didn't just give us the Holy Spirit; look at verse 6, **He poured the Holy Spirit out on us richly!**

If you want to know how a Christian can be kind, merciful, and good in a world that hates us and wants nothing to do with our King. We can do it by the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, which He has poured out on us richly.

This is the fulfillment of God's promise in **Ezekiel 36:26-27**, which says:

*25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

He regenerates us and gives us a new heart. He pours out His Spirit upon us. He does the work of making us holy, and because of this **we CAN THRIVE** in this ungodly culture.

**Verses 6 and 7** continue explaining how God's mercy was poured out:

*<sup>6</sup>Whom **he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior***

*<sup>7</sup>So that **being justified by his grace***

*we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Here Paul continues explaining how our Heavenly Father has accomplished His will in saving us. He used His Perfect Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to pour out the Holy Spirit on us AND to justify us. Again, all through His mercy and grace. Just think about that, we are justified by "**what GOD GIVES**"... it is nothing within us.

Again Ephesians 2 and Colossians 2 are instructive to us. In both, God declares that we who were dead were made alive by grace through the work of Jesus Christ!

*Colossians 2:13-15*

*13 And you, **who were dead in your trespasses** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him**, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, **nailing it to the cross.** 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, **by triumphing over them in him.*****

Brothers and sisters, be hopeful – take heart; Jesus did the work. You don't have to save yourselves. And He did it all so that, as it says in verse 7 of Titus 3, “we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

What does he mean by “become heirs” here? In human terms, someone who is an heir to something does not yet *fully* have what he/she is heir to. The inheritance is something that is yours but not yet completely. Similarly, through Jesus, we have become heirs to eternal life. And that HOPE, the HOPE of eternal life in glory with our King... should drive us to holiness! This hope, alongside the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, should always be at work in us to make us kinder, more loving, and even more merciful as we, with our new ‘living’ hearts, are conformed to the image of our Savior.

So, thanks to this passage in Titus, we believers should be filled with hope. We have read how God Himself has saved us, apart from any good thing within us. We know that He did so in His mercy and kindness toward us. And we know that He did it so that we might be heirs to His eternal Kingdom. But are there other reasons that He has done all of this work for us?

Yes.

Let's look back at our text in **Titus 3. In verse 8**, Paul implores Titus to “insist” on everything we have discussed today.

*<sup>8</sup>The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to **insist on these things**, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. **These things are excellent and profitable for people.***

**Our third and final point** today is **He Saved Us - for good works.**

Paul tells Titus to “insist” that works cannot save us. He tells Titus to “insist” that it is God who has saved us by the washing of regeneration, that He continues to

sanctify us through the work of the Holy Spirit, and that He has justified us through His Son Jesus! Finally, He tells Titus to “insist” that we have a great hope because of God’s boundless love, so we should live lives of holiness.

We can understand that “insisting” on sound doctrine is important, but Paul actually highlights “why” insisting on these particular things are of the utmost importance. Paul tells Titus to insist on these things because it gets to the heart of one of the reasons God has undertaken all of this work for us.

In his commentary on Titus 3, David Campbell explains one of the reasons that God has endeavored to do all of this work.

*“Four words stand out as we read through the passage—kindness, love, mercy, and grace. It was ‘when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared’ that he saved us (v. 4). It was ‘not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy’ (v. 5). It was ‘by his grace’ that he justified us (v. 7).*

*These words of course have their own distinct meanings. Mercy, for example, takes account of our helplessness and points us to God’s pitying, compassionate heart. Grace has reference to our undeservingness and again speaks of God’s pitying, compassionate heart. What a thoroughly wretched state we were in! We were ‘foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another’ (v. 3). Nevertheless we were the objects of God’s love. And it was that that moved him to save us.”*

So one reason He saved us is that **He loves us.**

But verse 8 of Titus chapter 3 gives us another reason.

A common theme that has run throughout our series in Titus is the focus on the **Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)**, which says,

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

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Here in **verse 8 of Titus chapter 3**, Paul reminds Titus that he must continue to “insist on these things” that we’ve learned about today *“so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.”*

Family, we are not saved as “fire insurance.” We are not saved solely so that we will spend eternity in glory with our God. No, we are saved for a purpose that is very much right here and right now.

Paul tells Titus to insist on all of the things we’ve discussed today **SO THAT** the believers on Crete would **be careful to devote themselves to good works!** Good works like proclaiming the gospel and ministering to ALL nations.

Again, from Ephesians 2, we read, *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

Indeed, the New Testament is filled with commands for the believer to **CONSTANTLY** be busying themselves **with good works** so that the Father in Heaven would be glorified. You can see this throughout the book of James, in Matthew 5:16, in Galatians 6:9, in Hebrews 13:16, in 1 Timothy 6, and elsewhere.

The brilliant 19<sup>th</sup> century London preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, reminded us of this when he declared, *“Works are the evidence of our faith; by faith our souls are justified before God; by works our faith is justified before ourselves and fellow-men.”*

Again, remember, the good news is that He Saved Us. Don’t be confused. Our works don’t save us; they can’t save us - but because He saved us, we should be about doing good works!

James 2 says:

*18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was*

*completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also **faith apart from works is dead.***

These are heavy, important words from James, the brother of our Lord Jesus. And we should heed them.

**The last line of Titus chapter 3, verse 8, says, “These things are excellent and profitable for people.”**

This point about good works being worthwhile is so important that Paul repeats his exhortation again just a few verses later in **verse 14**, where he says, *“And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.”*

“Profitable.” “Fruitful.” These words carry a very similar connotation. When we do these good works that Paul is commanding us to do, they are not just good; they are profitable and fruitful for us and for the Kingdom. Profitable - They bring a return on investment for the Savior who purchased us with His blood, much like the faithful servant who got his master a return on his investment while he was away. Good works are “Fruitful” – they are an example of how a Christian bears fruit, thereby proving his faith and blessing the world in the process.

Sadly, here in the United States, the church has become comfortable. We’ve grown lazy as we’ve experienced our Savior’s lavish grace and mercy. We are privileged to have been born into such a time and place, and in our comfort, we have forgotten that the life of a Christian is not supposed to be one of ease but one of work. HARD WORK.

If we choose to sit in our comfy church pews, or chairs, enjoy some nice music, eat good food with our friends, and listen to a sermon now and again - this is not all that we are called to.

Friends – God has saved us because He loves us, but He has also saved us so that we would be about His business. And His business is good works. His business is

the Great Commission. As believers, when we do His good works, we glorify Him. Which as the Westminster catechism reminds us is our chief purpose in life.

Are you thankful that in His kindness, mercy, and love, He has saved you? Are you grateful for this, the best news anyone has ever heard?

If so, I urge you, church, let's get to work—His work.

You might ask, "but what is the work I should be doing?"

I have three quick points of practical application to help you think about this. The first is that Christians should:

### **1. Work, aware of the needs around you.**

We live in a wonderful place, but poverty here in Paulding County is rampant. More than half of our public school children are on free/reduced lunch meal plans – meaning that our government recognizes that their families do not have the means to provide regular nutritious meals for them. This is one of the reasons our church has been partnering with CAYA ministries to feed these children in our community. Church, Feed these sheep. Our state had approximately 14,000 children in foster care last year; with almost 3,000 of them listed with a permanency of adoption goal. Feed these sheep. Paulding County has a Women's Crisis center that regularly meets the needs of women and children who are without hope and attempting to find salvation – whether from poverty, addiction, or abuse. Feed these sheep. Opioid addiction is wreaking havoc across our nation, and Paulding County is not immune. We have seen the fallout of drug and alcohol addiction across the county, and particularly in our poorest communities. Feed these sheep.

Secondly we should:

### **2. Work, aware of your neighbor's needs.**

Have you met and befriended your neighbors? Have you helped an elderly person in your neighborhood by doing work around their house? Have you spoken kindness to the strangers who live in your neighborhoods? Have you donated your time, money, or talent to an organization or person in need? Every day brings new opportunities for good works – so wake up! And get to work!

Finally, we need to:

### **3. Work, aware of the needs in the church body.**

Right here, in our little local church, we have many needs. We have folks who are hurting, folks who need support, admonition, encouragement, friendship, love, and even correction. Your efforts in our church body can and will help to build God's Kingdom – what greater reward could you want?

Are you gathering together with us in our Wednesday night prayer meetings, where we lift up the needs of our body, our nation, and our world? Are you enjoying fellowship in one of our community groups? Are your kids participating in our Foundation classes or youth group?

Our gathering, our people need you to help in the work!

**Brothers and sisters - We have the best news that has ever, and will ever, exist. We have the news that could save lives, mend broken people, bring peace to tumult, and love where only hate exists. Our job, our hard work, is to spread this good news everywhere.**

**He Saved Us to Work.** So, are we ready to get to work church?

Let's pray.

*Heavenly Father, you are a good and gracious King. You have lovingly poured out your mercy and grace upon us, a people who are undeserving of these gifts. We thank you, we worship you for your kindness and steadfast love. We thank you for saving us from our sin. We know that your goodness toward us has nothing to do with us, but is all about you. Lord, please use us to glorify yourself.*

*Lord, I pray that you would fill our congregation with your Spirit, so that we can make a difference in this community. We trust your word; we know that through your Spirit you are using your Word and your Church to sanctify each of us as you prepare us to do the work that you have called us to.*

*Lord I pray that your people, here in this local church body, would heed your words in Titus. I pray that we would endeavor together to do the work that you have called us to do. I pray that we would be excited, that we would be fueled, to have the glorious opportunity to be used of you to build your kingdom, right here in Paulding County.*

*Father, we thank you for the Good News that you have given us here in the pages of Titus and we thank you in advance for using us to glorify yourself through good work. It's in Jesus' name that we pray, Amen.*