

Titus

1. Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

A. Paul- Gr. *means little*

1. Paul took on this gentile name after his conversion. He originally was named Saul after the first prideful king of Israel. Paul was like Saul of the OT before his conversion. Saul means “desired”. He was a head taller than every other man. He was very self focused and pre-occupied with self. Paul was like this before He was saved. He said that he out advanced those of his own countrymen according to the zeal of the law. [Gal. 1:14](#) Once Paul understood grace he took the name Paul- “little”. He became little in his own eyes so Christ could be great in all others eyes.

B. a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ,

1. bondservant- Gr. *doulos- bond servant*

- a. In the ancient world there were involuntary and voluntary slaves. Paul was the latter. His freedom price was paid by Christ, now he served Christ voluntarily out of love.
- b. Notice that Paul mentions he is a servant first before Apostle. This is the first proving ground of ministry that leads to promotion. However, we are to never leave being a servant. Servanthood is the ground and safety for operating in ministry.

2. apostle- *apostolos- sent one with a message and authority*

3. Jesus Christ- Gr. *Iesous Christos- savior anointed one- Messiah*

C. according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness

1. according to the faith- *kata pistis*

- a. We are to be ministers according to and to promote people's faith
- b. We are to build up people's faith, not crush faith by legalistic ministry

2. elect- *eklektos- chosen out ones*

3. acknowledgment- Gr. *epignosis- epi- above; gnosis- knowledge- revelation knowledge*

a. Revelation of the truth comes by the Holy Spirit. Our part is to put the Word in our heart and meditate on it and trust the Spirit to reveal it to our heart. Information must become revelation which will lead to transformation.

4. **truth-** Gr. **aletheia-** *Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been, or shall be. The truth of history constitutes its whole value.*

5. **accords-** Gr. **kata-** *according to, that which goes along with*

6. **godliness-** Gr. **eusebia-** *good reverence, good piety*

a. The truth of the word of God will always lead to and go along with reverence and piety towards God. False teaching always leads to ungodliness and irreverence of God.

b. You will always be known by your running partners. Truth always runs with godliness. False teaching always runs with ungodliness.

c. The teaching of true grace will lead you to live holy and godly. [Titus 2:11-12](#), [1Ti 1:4](#), [1Ti 3:16](#), [1Ti 6:3](#); [2Pe 1:3](#), [2Pe 3:11](#)

2. in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

A. in hope of eternal life which God

1. **hope-** Gr. **elpis-** *confident expectation of good*

2. **eternal life-** **aionios zoe-** **aionios-** *without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be without end, never to cease, everlasting; zoe-* *The God kind of life which comes from a living symbiotic relationship with God.* [Tit 3:7](#), [2Ti 1:1](#), [1Jo 2:25](#)

B. who cannot lie

1. **cannot lie-** **apseudes**

a. This is reassuring. We must take it by faith and believe God's testimony of Himself that He cannot lie. I have not caught Him in a lie, have you?

C. promised before time began

1. **promised-** **epaggello-** *to announce upon*

2. **time-** Gr. **aionios-** *without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be without end, never to cease, everlasting; ages*

3. **began-** Gr. **chronos-** *times*

a. **Translate this phrase-** *promised before the beginning of the ages of times*

b. Before God created time, He promised eternal salvation for you and me. Christ was slain from before the foundation of the world! [Rev. 13:8](#)

3. **but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;**

A. **but has in due times manifested His word through preaching,**

1. **due times-** Gr. **idios kairos-** *in its own particular or fitting seasons*

a. The Word of God came forth over many years and seasons. As each season would come God would use different men to bring forth the Word of God for that season. [Rom 5:6](#);
[Gal 4:4](#); [Eph 1:10](#); [1Ti 2:6](#)

2. **manifested-** Gr. **phaneroo-** *to make plain or clear*

3. **Word-** Gr. **logos**

4. **preaching-** Gr. **kerugma-** *that which is proclaimed by a herald or public crier, a proclamation by herald*

B. **which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior**

1. **committed-** Gr. **pisteuo-** *to entrust a thing to one*

a. Paul was entrusted with giving the Word of God in his season of time to the church. [1Co 9:17](#); [1Th 2:4](#); [1Ti 1:11](#)

b. God entrusts us to preach the Word of God to those in our season of time.

2. **commandment-** Gr. **epitage-** *an injunction, mandate, command*

3. **God our Savior-** Jesus Christ is both God and our Savior. [Tit 2:13](#)

Jesus arrested Saul of Tarsus and gave Him commandment to preach His Word. [Acts 26:13-18](#) This phrase God our Savior is also applied to God the Father Who sent Jesus to save us. [1Ti 1:1](#)

a. Each one of us receives a commandment from Jesus Christ to minister His Word and Spirit in our unique way to our generation and season.

4. **To Titus, a true son in *our* common faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.**

A. To Titus,

1. **Titus**- *means honorable*

- a. Titus was a convert of the Apostle Paul. We do not know where he came from. He was a gentile from gentile parents. He was not circumcised like Timothy was because his mother was a Jew. Titus was a trouble shooter for Paul in Corinth and in Crete and possibly in Dalmatia. Paul visited the island of Crete after his first imprisonment and left Titus there to get the church up and going. At the time of Paul's second imprisonment in Rome we hear that Titus went to Dalmatia. There is no indication that Titus deserted Paul like Demas did. He probably was sent by Paul as a trouble shooter to the region of Dalmatia. Church history records that Titus returned to Crete and was the bishop over the churches there until his death.

B. a true son in our common faith

1. **true son**- Gr. **gnesios teknon**- *legitimately born child*

- a. This does not mean that Titus was Paul's natural born child, but He was born again under Paul's ministry. Paul also gives Timothy this designation. [1Ti 1:1-2](#); [2Ti 1:2](#)

2. **common faith**- Gr. **koinos pistis**- Here we see Paul is speaking of Titus being a spiritual son in the faith not a natural son.

- a. As Christians we have a shared common faith that is of equal value. [Rom 1:12](#); [2Co 4:13](#); [2Pe 1:1](#); [Jud 1:3](#)

C. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior

1. **Grace**- Gr. **charis**- *unmerited favor and ability given freely based upon the finished work of Christ*

2. **mercy**- Gr. **eleos**- *pity or compassion*

3. **peace**- Gr. **eirene**- *peace, harmony, tranquility, prosperity*

- a. From the fountain head of grace flows the rivers of mercy and peace.

4. **God the Father**- God the Father is the originating place of grace, mercy, and peace.

5. **Lord Jesus Christ our Savior**- Jesus executed redemption and is the channel through which the grace, mercy, and peace flow.

5. For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

A. For this reason I left you in Crete,

1. left you- Gr. **kateleipo-** *to leave entirely*

a. Paul left Titus in Crete. He was all alone to face the Cretans!

2. Crete- *means “carnal or the flesh”*

a. Paul left Titus on an island called “flesh”! The island of Crete was a wild place! They were given to fighting and laziness, and this was the Christians! Christ will deposit his ministers on islands of carnality and flesh so that the Word of God can be ministered. This is for the purpose that immature, carnal, fleshly Christians can grow in the faith and become spiritual.

b. If you are a minister and you see a lot of carnal fleshly Christians around you, then you were left in the right place! Stop looking at the flesh, which will depress you, and start speaking to their new creation spirits and minister New Covenant grace and faith and see them mature! You were left on the island of flesh for a purpose minister of God!

c. There is a big problem if Jesus leaves you on an island of flesh and you yourself are fleshly. This is not a combination! That is why every minister of God needs to be mature and spend quality and quantity of time in God's Word and prayer, so they will be acting and speaking from their new creation spirit and in faith.

B. that you should set in order the things that are lacking,

1. set in order- Gr. **epidiorthoo-** *straighten further, that is, (figuratively) arrange additionally*

a. Paul after preaching the gospel and seeing converts he started to organize the church in Crete. However, God called him away and he left Titus to complete the order that he had begun.

b. The flesh always creates disorder. A sign of the flesh is disorder. God is not the author of confusion. He is a God of order. The more spiritual you become the more ordered you will become.

2. lacking- Gr. **leipo**

a. The flesh produces lack. Grace and faith brings God's abundant provision on the scene.

C. and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you

1. appoint- Gr. **kathistemi-** *to set in firm position*

2. **elders**- Gr. **presbuteros**- *mature ones*

3. **every city**

a. God wants the gospel spread to every city. Once there are converts in each city there needs to be structure.

4. **commanded you**- Gr. **diatasso**- *to arrange, appoint, ordain, prescribe, give order*

a. There is submission and authority in the kingdom of God and in the church. Titus was faithful to carry out his orders just as Paul gave them.

6. **if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.**

A. **if a man is blameless,**

1. **blameless**- Gr. **anegkletos**- *that cannot be called into to account, unproveable, unaccused, blameless*

a. Blameless does not mean you have never made mistakes. It means there is nothing current in your life that you can be blamed for.

b. No one will be perfect in all these qualifications, however, one must be striving in all these areas to qualify for leadership.

B. **the husband of one wife,**

1. This means he was not a polygamist [having multiple wives]. This does not mean that he had a previous divorce.

C. **having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination**

1. **faithful**- Gr. **pistos**- *believing*

a. We should not be about converting the world, when the mission field of our own home cries out for our attention.

2. **children**- Gr. **teknon**- *offspring, child*

3. **not accused**- Gr. **en kategoria**- *not charged with or known to be in the category of*

4. **dissipation**- Gr. **asotia**- *an abandoned, dissolute life, unsavedness*

5. **insubordination**- Gr. **anupotaktos**- *that cannot be subjected to control, disobedient, unruly, refractory*

a. If a man does not know how to rule his own house [*small family*] how can he rule the house [*larger family*] of God? [1Ti 3:4-5](#)

D. The beginning of the qualifications for those who lead in the church start with their leadership within their home with their wife and children.

1. The home is just a smaller version of the larger family of God in the

church. He who is faithful in little will be faithful in much, and he who is unfaithful in the small will be unfaithful in the greater. [Luke 16:10](#)

7. **For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,**

A. **For a bishop must be blameless,**

1. **bishop-** Gr. **episkopos-** *one who oversees*

- a. The term bishop and elder are mostly similar in the NT. The term **bishop** speaks of function- *to oversee* and **elder** speaks of character- *a mature one*.
- b. We see here the two terms interchangeable. Paul left Titus on Crete to ordain **elders** in every city and then goes on to say for a **bishop** must....
- c. For other verses that use this term interchangeably please reference: [Acts 20:17, 28](#), [1 Peter 5:1-2](#)
- d. Not in all cases are elders overseers over the church, but all overseers are elders- mature ones. There is a distinction between an elder and an elder that rules. [1 Tim 5:17](#) An elder who rules should receive double honor and compensation. A ruling elder is a bishop.

2. **blameless-** Gr. **anegkletos-** *that cannot be called into to account, unproveable, unaccused, blameless*

- a. Again, this does not mean that you never did wrong things in your past. There would be precious few ministers if that were the case! This means that there is nothing **current in your life** that you can be accused of that would bring your testimony or that of the church into question.
- b. There are some transgressions of the past that could preclude serving as a leader in the church if those transgressions were made open to the public at large.
- c. If you fail in the eyes of the public you can regain your fellowship [with God], but not always your fellowship [with men and women]. [Greg Mohr]

B. **as a steward of God,**

1. **steward-** Gr. **oikonomos-** *the manager of household or of household affairs*

- a. Again the church is the household of God. He must first take care

of his own household before he can take care of the household of God.

- b. The church belongs to God and not to the leader or leaders. We are stewards of what belongs to God. Not understanding that we are stewards in God's house will lead to the next thing below which is to become self-willed and start doing our own thing in the church instead of God's thing.
- c. The most important thing about a steward is that they are faithful. [Mat 24:45](#); [Luk 12:42](#); [1Co 4:1-2](#)

C. not self-willed,

1. **self-willed**- Gr. **authades**- from **autos**- *self*; **hedone**- *hedonistic or seeking ones own pleasure- self-pleasing, self-willed, arrogant*

- a. A leader in a church is put there by God to do God's will, not do what he wants to do. A leader in the church must be on constant vigilance against doing what he wants to do versus doing what the Lord wants done. We keep vigilance through prayer and fellowship with the Lord.
- b. One of the characteristics of a false minister and teacher is that they are self-willed. [2Pe 2:10](#)

D. not quick-tempered,

1. **quick-tempered**- Gr. **orgilos**- *apt to be inflamed on every opposition.*

- a. This is a bad fruit of being self-willed.
- b. An angry man stirs up strife. [Pro 15:18](#) Strife will arise from time to time in the church, but woe to the church if it comes from the pastor!

E. not given to wine,

1. **given to wine**- Gr. **paroinos**- *to sit beside the wine*

- a. It is always the best policy for a leader and minister to stay away from alcohol altogether. It is best for the minister and those who he is trying to minister to.
- b. OT priests and kings were exhorted not to drink wine while they served others. [Lev 10:9](#); [Eze 44:21](#), [Pro 31:4-5](#)
- c. As a leader you can err through drinking alcohol. [Isa 28:7](#)

F. not violent,

1. **violent**- Gr. **plektes**- *not a ready for a fight* [both literal or figuratively]

- a. If you are looking for a fight you will not have to look very far in the church!

G. not greedy for money

1. greedy for money- Gr. *aischrokerdēs*- *seeking disreputable gains*

a. Ministers are always in need of money, so the temptation to run deals and sometimes questionable business deals is high. We need to shun these things.

b. **NO MINISTER OF GOD SHOULD RUN MULTI-LEVEL MARKETING DEALS WITH MEMBERS OF HIS CHURCH! NEVER! Do not prostitute God's bride!**

c. Greediness for money will lead you to be hardened in heart and you will fail to understand God's will and the Word of God. [Isa. 56:11](#)

H. All of the characteristics that are to be avoided above by a leader in the church were found in the island of Crete and even in the church there! Again, Paul left Titus on the island of flesh! As a man of God, Titus was not only to preach mature Christian living but model it. More is caught than taught folks! If a leader is as fleshly as the average person attending the church, then there would be little growth in the church.

I. Note this: Our position in salvation comes by a gift of God's grace. Our only condition is to believe upon Christ. **However, when it comes to leadership in the church, there are qualifications and fruit that must be exhibited first.** Each minister must be tested and proven faithful before they can lead the people of God. This testing takes time and patience to pass. This proving time is where character is developed. When I started out serving in the church I started as a janitor. I entered first, second, and third John ministry. After I cleaned the first john, I got to clean the second john, and after that I got to clean the third john. You are not qualified to pastor the church if you are unwilling to clean it!

8. but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

A. but hospitable,

1. hospitable- Gr. *philoxenos*- *fond or friendly to strangers*

a. This trait is a must have for a pastor. He is to be friendly and welcoming. A standoffish pastor is a terrible testimony for Christ; no matter how gifted they are at teaching.

B. a lover of what is good- Gr. *philagathos*- *fond of intrinsic good*

1. This can refer to fondness of good people or good things

a. If you are fond of being with bad people and watching bad things there is a problem Houston!

C. **sober-minded**- Gr. **sophron**- from **sozo** and **phren**- *a saved mind*

1. Our soul gets saved by the implanted Word. [James 1:21](#)

D. **just**- Gr. **dikaios**- *righteous*

1. Every Christian is positionally righteous in Christ, but this verse speaks of living right before men.

E. **holy**- Gr. **hagios**- *set apart*

1. Every Christian is positionally holy in Christ, but his verse speaks of living a consecrated life before men.

F. **self-controlled**- Gr. **egkrates**- *in control of himself*

9. **holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**

A. **holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught,**

1. **holding fast**- Gr. **antechomai**- *to hold yourself face to face with, hold to firmly, cleave to, paying heed to*

a. We need to keep ourselves in face to face contact with the Word of God daily!

2. **faithful word**- Gr. **pistos logos**

a. The Word of God is the Faithful Word. The words of man are unfaithful.

b. Most Christians are getting a steady diet of man's words through the media but a meager diet of God's Word. A steady diet of the Faithful Word will keep a Christian strong and stable in a very unstable world.

3. **taught**- Gr. **didache**

a. We need to study the Word for ourselves but we also need to be taught by a pastor in church. Someone cannot be a pastor that has not been pastored.

b. Being taught in the past is not enough. We must stay face to face with the Faithful Word daily.

c. If we have been taught sound doctrine we need to stick to what we have learned. We must hold fast to it by going over and over it again and again! [2Th 2:15](#); [2Ti 1:13](#)

B. **that he may be able**

1. **may be able**- Gr. **dunatos**

- a. We must stay face to face with the Faithful Word and be taught.
We then will be able to teach others sound doctrine.

C. by sound doctrine,

1. **sound**- Gr. **huigiano**- *We get our English word hygiene from this word. to have sound health, that is, be well (in body); figuratively to be uncorrupt (true in doctrine)*

2. **doctrine**- Gr. **didaskalia**

- a. Healthy teaching is a balance of grace and faith. It is a balance of positional truth and practical application of that truth. It is a balance between cross grace and resurrection grace.
- b. Sound doctrine is the words of the Lord Jesus. [1Ti 6:3](#) This is not just the gospels but the whole revealed Word of God- Genesis to Revelation. We must hold fast to the Bible, which is sound doctrine.

D. both to exhort and convict those who contradict

1. **exhort**- Gr. **parakaleo**- *to call to one side and speak courage building words, call to action!*

2. **convict**- Gr. **elegcho**- *by conviction to bring to the light, to expose to call to account, show one his fault, demand an explanation*

- a. A part of grace filled ministry is to bring to light [conviction] of what is not in line with the Word. We all need accountability and be shown where we are missing it. It is not love to let people stray off into error and make grave mistakes without telling them.

3. **contradict**- Gr. **antilego**- *to speak against, to be anti-word.*

- a. We all can get to a place where we are acting and speaking against the Word. When we are in the flesh we are anti-Word. We need a mature person to speak the Word to us and show us our faults in love. We need to come into proper alignment to the Word of God.
- b. This ministry should take place from the pulpit each week as the pastor ministers the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. The ministry of sound doctrine will bring instruction, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. [2 Tim. 3:16](#)
- c. Conviction of wrong comes through the ministry of the Word and the Spirit. [2 Tim. 3:16](#), [1Co 14:24](#)

10. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

A. For there are many insubordinate,

1. **insubordinate**- Gr. **anupotaktos**- *that cannot be subjected to control, disobedient, unruly, refractory*

- a. A mind that has not been renewed to the Word of God is carnal. The carnal mind is enmity against God, and is not subject to Him, neither can it be. [Rom. 8:7](#)

B. both idle talkers and deceivers,

1. **idle talkers**- Gr. **mataiologos**- *empty talkers*

2. **deceivers**- Gr. **phrenapates**- *a mind deceiver, a seducer*

- a. One who is deceived in his mind will end up being a mind deceiver of others.
- b. Legalists are deceived in their mind and are mind deceivers of others.

C. especially those of the circumcision

1. **circumcision**- Gr. **peritome**

- a. Religious Jews

11. whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

A. whose mouths must be stopped,

1. **stopped**- Gr. **epistomizo**- *to bridle or stop up the mouth*

- a. These mouths must be stopped "in the church". Pastors must take their authority in the church. They are to run off wolves and starve the goats. Pastors are to feed and protect the sheep.

B. who subvert whole households,

1. **subvert**- Gr. **anatrepo**- *to over turn*

2. **households**- Gr. **oikos**

- a. The word of God and the word of Satan have power to convert whole houses. [Acts 16:31](#) God and Satan both want to gain the control of households. Households are the building blocks of nations.

C. teaching things which they ought not,

1. **teaching**- Gr. **didasko**

D. for the sake of dishonest gain

1. **dishonest gain**- Gr. **aischros kerdos**

- a. Most false teaching centers around the acquiring of financial gain.

12. **One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans *are* always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."**

A. **One of them, a prophet of their own,**

1. This is Epimenides- lived 600 B.C.

B. **said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons"**

1. **liars-** Gr. *pseustes*

2. **evil beasts-** Gr. *kakos therion*

3. **lazy gluttons-** Gr. *argos gaster- idle bellies*

a. These are descriptions of the flesh exhibited by the Cretans. This was prevalent in the church Titus inherited from Paul. This was the island of flesh!

13. **This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,**

A. **This testimony is true.**

1. **testimony-** Gr. *marturia*

B. **Therefore rebuke them sharply,**

1. **rebuke-** Gr. *elegcho- to convict, to find fault with, correct, to call to account, show one his fault, demand an explanation*

a. This phrase shows that the Christians on this island were being characterized by lying, evil, and being idle. Note this- a Christian's flesh is no different than an unbeliever's flesh. When we walk in our flesh we look no different than an unbeliever. We must walk in the Spirit and we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. [Gal. 5:16](#)

b. This is not popular today, but Christians need to be convicted of doing wrong. The Word of God is profitable for this purpose! It profits us to be convicted of wrong so it can be corrected!

2. **sharply-** Gr. *apotomos-* Gr. *sharply, severely, curtly*

a. We hear a lot about the love of God today, but folks, this is the love of God also. Pastors at times need to sharply rebuke those under their care so they will see the need for and how they can make corrections for their own good and profit.

C. **that they may be sound in the faith**

1. **sound-** Gr. *hugiaino- healthy, hygienic*

a. It is healthy to be corrected in love by the Word of God.

14. not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

A. giving heed- Gr. **prosecho**

B. Jewish fables- Gr. **muthos-** *a narrative, story a fiction, a fable an invention, a falsehood*

1. There are Christian fables today. There are numerous books coming out on people's own experiences with the after life. Many of the things mentioned in them can not be validated by the Word, but Christians take it as scripture.

2. It is amazing that a "Christian" fiction book can be written and Christians take it as doctrine for the church.

C. commandments of men

1. Two ways the enemy tries to neutralize the Word of God is by fables and the commandments of men. It is amazing that so many Christians hold these on the same level of the Word of God.

D. turn from- Gr. **apostepho**

E. truth

1. This is the Word of God. [John 17:17](#)

2. When we first turn from the truth of the Word of God, we are open to be deceived by fables and the commandments of men.

15. To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

A. To the pure all things are pure,

1. pure- Gr. **katharos**

a. It is important to take scripture in context. Some of used this verse to excuse away the practice of many impure things.

b. In context Paul is talking about the commandments of men that the Jews were trying to bring upon the church. These were commands concerning the Law. This would be issues like eating or abstaining from certain foods.

c. This verse should not be used to validate the use of drugs or the use of other harmful substances.

d. The pure are those who have been justified and sanctified by grace through faith.

B. but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure;

1. defiled- Gr. **miaino**

2. unbelieving- Gr. apistos

- a. To an unbeliever nothing is pure. Nothing they do, abstain from, eat or not eat, can change their defiled nature until they become a believer. Likewise nothing from the outside can change the righteous nature of a born again child of God.

C. but even their mind and conscience are defiled

1. mind- Gr. nous

2. conscience- Gr. suneidesis

3. defiled- Gr. miaino

- a. Living under the Law will bring a defiled mind and conscience. The harder you try to keep all the rules the more you will fall short and find your mind and conscience defiled and guilty.
- b. As we walk in grace and have our focus on Christ and His finished work, our mind and conscience will be righteous and clear.

16. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

A. They profess to know God,

1. profess- Gr. homologeo- *to say the same thing, confess*

- a. Religious people can say the same thing as a Christian does which is that they know God, but they do not. They know "about God."

2. know- Gr. eido- *have intuitive knowledge of*

1. It takes faith to be born again so we can have an experiential knowledge of God [Gr. **ginosko**]

B. but in works they deny Him,

1. works- Gr. ergon

2. deny- Gr. arneomai

- a. In Romans chapter two Paul addresses religious people and shows them that although they boast in the Law and in God, they actually dishonor God by breaking the Law. It is not what you profess but what you do that matters. You can boast in the holy standard of God, but if you do not live up to the holy standard of God you are guilty and worthy of death. As Christians we fulfill God's holy perfect standard by our faith in Christ.
- b. Legalistic people condemn their own selves!

C. being abominable,

1. abominable- Gr. bdeluktos- *From a (presumed) derivative of βδέω bdeō*

(to stink); to be disgusted, that is, (by implication) detest (especially of idolatry): - abhor, abominable.

a. It is important to see here that Paul is talking about religious church going people here. He is not talking about street people out doing drugs and going to wild parties.

b. God sees the religious works of man as abominable. It stinks to high heaven to Him! If you do good things to try to be righteous before God, then God sees that as abominable!

D. disobedient- Gr. **apeithes-** *unpersuaded*

E. and disqualified for every good work

1. **disqualified-** Gr. **adokimos-** *rejected after testing*

2. **every good work**

a. A religious self righteous person is disqualified from doing any good works in God's eyes. If what someone does is done for the purpose of self pride and justification then those works are abominable.

b. Once we are justified by faith we are qualified to do good works out of grace and faith. These works come out of a heart of faith in God and love for people. We were saved by grace through faith unto good works.

c. It is the Father who qualified us! [Col 1:12](#) If we try to qualify ourselves we will be disqualified!