

## I ONCE WAS LOST BUT NOW I AM FOUND (THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD WORKS)

TEXT: Titus 3:3-8

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Everybody used to be something else!
2. If you are 3 years old, you used to be a baby, now you are a toddler.
3. Many of our thoughts and conversations are about what we used to be or what we have experienced in the past!
4. Practically all of our "life-lessons" are based upon past experiences either ours or those about which we have learned.
5. Paul never forgot what he once was!

### I. BE PATIENT WITH THE LOST BECAUSE YOU WERE ONCE LOST TOO (3!)

A. Remind them to be subject to the rulers & authorities, to obey and be ready for every **GOOD** work (1).

1) In speaking of the financial blessings provided by God to carry out His work on earth Paul said, 2 Cor 9:8-9 *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."*

2) Philippians 1:6 Paul told the Christians in Philippi that he was confident that God would complete the "good work" that he started in them.

3) Col 1:9-13 *"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."*

4) 2 Tim 3:16-17 *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

B. Speak evil of no one - blasphemeo, "means to slander or malign with the goal of injury, incorrect information, with malicious motives."

C. To be peaceable - hesuchios, means to be quiet.

D. Gentle - considerate, "equitable, fair, moderate, forbearing, humane and reasonable

E. Showing all humility to all men - Gentle attitude, Titus 3:2 to show perfect courtesy

*"The meaning of prautes "is not readily expressed in English, for the terms meekness, mildness, commonly used, suggest weakness to a greater or less extent, whereas prautes*

*does nothing of the kind. Nevertheless, it is difficult to find a rendering less open to objection than 'meekness'; 'gentleness' has been suggested, but as prautes describes a condition of mind and heart, and as 'gentleness' is appropriate rather to actions, this word is no better than that used in both English Versions. It must be clearly understood, therefore, that the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command. Described negatively, meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all."* (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers).

**II. WHY? Verse 3: For we ourselves were also once:**

- A. Foolish,
- B. Disobedient,
- C. Deceived,
- D. Serving various lusts and pleasures,
- E. Living in malice and envy,
- F. Hateful and hating one another.

**III. WHAT CHANGED:**

- A. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
- B. Not by works of righteousness which we have done,
- C. But according to His mercy He saved us,
- D. Through the washing of regeneration & renewing of the Holy Spirit,
- E. Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- F. That having been justified by His grace
- G. We should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. This is a faithful saying,
2. These things I want you to affirm constantly,
3. That those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.
4. These things are good and profitable to men.