

# Titus 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

## Analysis

**They profess that they know God** (θεὸν ὄμολογοῦσιν εἰδέναι, theon homologousin eidenai)—όμολογέω (homologeō, confess/profess) indicates public claim. These false teachers made verbal profession of knowing God. **But in works they deny him** (τοῖς δὲ ἔργοις ἀρνοῦνται, tois de ergois arnountai)—ἀρνέομαι (arneomai, deny/repudiate) is strong language Jesus used for apostasy (Matthew 10:33). Their profession and practice contradict; orthodoxy without orthopraxy is hypocrisy.

**Being abominable, and disobedient**—βδελυκτοί (bdelyktoi, detestable) appears in Leviticus (LXX) for ritually abhorrent things. ἀπειθεῖς (apeitheis, disobedient/unpersuadable) indicates stubborn rebellion. **And unto every good work reprobate** (πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθὸν ἀδόκιμοι, pros pan ergon agathon adokimoi)—ἀδόκιμος means "failing the test/unqualified/rejected." False teachers fail the good works test (Matthew 7:16-20), proving their profession false.

## Historical Context

James 2:14-26 develops the same theme: faith without works is dead. The Reformation properly distinguished justification (by faith alone) from sanctification (faith necessarily produces works). Paul attacks both legalism (justification by works) and antinomianism (faith without works). True faith always, inevitably, produces good works as fruit, not root.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Do your works confirm or deny your verbal profession of faith—is there consistency between creed and conduct?
2. In what areas of life are you "reprobate unto every good work"—approved in profession but failing in practice?
3. How do you avoid both legalism (works for justification) and antinomianism (faith without works)?

## Interlinear Text

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θεὸν ὄμολογοῦσιν εἰδέναι τοῖς δὲ ἔργον ἀρνοῦνται  
God They profess that they know G3588 but in works they deny  
G2316 G3670 G1492 G1161 G2041 G720

βδελυκτοὶ ὄντες καὶ ἀπειθεῖς καὶ πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον  
abominable him being and disobedient and unto every in works  
G947 G5607 G2532 G545 G2532 G4314 G3956 G2041

ἀγαθὸν ἀδόκιμοι  
good reprobate  
G18 G96

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 2:4** (Parallel theme): He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

**Isaiah 29:13** (Parallel theme): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have

removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

**Ephesians 5:6** (References God): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

**Ezekiel 33:31** (Parallel theme): And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

**Jude 1:4** (References God): For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Romans 1:28** (References God): And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

**Revelation 21:27** (Parallel theme): And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**1 Samuel 15:22** (Parallel theme): And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

**Revelation 21:8** (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

**Isaiah 58:2** (References God): Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.