

# Titus 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

## Analysis

**This is a faithful saying**—πιστὸς ὁ λόγος (pistos ho logos, faithful/trustworthy the word)—formula appearing five times in Pastorals (1 Timothy 1:15, 3:1, 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8), likely marking early Christian creedal summaries or hymns. Verses 4-7 constitute trustworthy doctrine demanding full confidence.

**And these things I will that thou affirm constantly** (καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαί σε διαβεβαιοῦσθαι, kai peri toutōn boulomai se diabebaiousthai)—βούλομαι (boulomai, I desire/will) σε διαβεβαιοῦσθαι (se diabebaiousthai, you to insist/affirm confidently). **That they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works** (ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προΐστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ, hina phrontizōsin kalōn ergōn proistasthai hoi pepisteurkotes theō)—φροντίζω (phrontizō, be thoughtful/give attention to) good works. Faith necessarily produces works (James 2:14-26). **These things are good and profitable unto men**—καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα (kala kai ōphelima, beautiful and beneficial).

## Historical Context

Paul constantly battles two errors: legalism (works for justification) and antinomianism (faith without works). He insists on the Reformation principle:

justification by faith alone, but faith is never alone—it always produces works. Good works are the fruit, not root, of salvation; evidence, not basis.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. Do you confidently affirm salvation by grace alone while insisting believers must be zealous for good works?
2. How do you avoid both legalism (works for acceptance) and antinomianism (faith without obedience)?
3. What good works is God calling you to "maintain"—not for salvation but as evidence of genuine faith?

## Interlinear Text

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Πιστὸς	ὁ	λόγος·	καὶ	περὶ	τούτων	βούλομαί
<b>This is a faithful</b>	G3588	<b>saying</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>these things</b>	G5130	<b>I will</b>
G4103		G3056	G2532	G4012		G1014
σε	διαβεβαιοῦσθαι	ἵνα	φροντίζωσιν	καλὰ	ἔργων	
<b>that thou</b>	<b>affirm constantly</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>might be careful</b>	<b>good</b>	<b>works</b>	
G4571	G1226	G2443	G5431	G2570	G2041	
προΐστασθαι	οἱ	πεπιστευκότες	τῷ	θεῷ·	ταῦτά	
<b>to maintain</b>	G3588	<b>they which have believed</b>	G3588	<b>in God</b>	<b>These things</b>	
G4291		G4100		G2316	G5023	
ἐστιν	τὰ	καλὰ	καὶ	ὠφέλιμα	τοῖς	ἄνθρωποις
<b>are</b>	G3588	<b>good</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>profitable</b>	G3588	<b>unto men</b>
G2076		G2570	G2532	G5624		G444

## Additional Cross-References

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**Titus 3:14** (Good): And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

**Titus 2:14** (Good): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**Titus 3:1** (Good): Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

**Titus 1:9** (Faith): Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

**Job 22:2** (References God): Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?

**Romans 4:5** (Faith): But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

**John 5:24** (Faith): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

**John 12:44** (Faith): Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

**1 Timothy 1:15** (Faith): This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

**1 Peter 1:21** (Faith): Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.