

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 βούλομαι 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** (ἴνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προΐστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ, hina phrontizōsin kalōn ergōn proistasthai hoi pepisteukotes 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 ὡφέλιμα (kala kai ophelima, 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

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

Additional Cross-References

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.