

Things to avoid, things to engage

Titus 3:8-15

Paul lays out principles of faith--good works & dealing w/ heretics. Good works are always to follow personal faith and defending the faith is part of living out our faith.

8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

Trustworthy statements, worthy of trust, truths we need to continually reaffirm. Salvation experience :5-7 And because we are saved *be careful to engage in good deeds*—*Lit to stand in front of*--Used of a shop keeper in front of his store calling passers-by to come in & buy his goods. **James 2:14-18** *What use is it to say faith but no works--I show my faith by my works*-True witness for Christ—We speak to the world not by words only but by what they see in our lives *MH those who have believed in God do not think that a bare naked faith will save them; but it must be an operative working faith--A serving, assisting, safe, a God cares & so do we faith 1000 points of light.*

9 But shun foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law; for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, 11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Shun turn away from, don't stand by, be aloof **Ps 1** *Unprofitable distractions* – don't argue over non-essentials or get sidetracked w/ controversial issues that don't build faith but stagnate faith.

Modes of baptism, freewill-sovereignty, apostolic succession, sacred names for God, *Yahweh & Yahshua need to be re-baptized in the name of Yahshua, that the name 'Jesus' is a pagan name*, Sabbath worship. Genealogies to venerate saints & patriarchs. LDS—12 bill dead archived *Genealogy is central to Mormon church (LDS) so families can be sealed (bound) together for eternity in sacred temples. Members trace their lineage to perform proxy baptism for dead, giving them the chance to accept the gospel in the afterlife—Law of Adoption created hierarchy of authority and belonging.*

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Catholics trace the "genealogy" (unbroken line of **Apostolic Succession**) of the Pope back to Peter a foundational Catholic belief Peter considered the first Pope

Pagan genealogies-**queer ancestry** Many Greek gods had same-sex relationships relevant to LGBTQ+. In ancient Greece bisexual or pansexual deities. **Apollo**: Bisexual had numerous male lovers, most notably the Spartan Hyacinthus. **Zeus**: Known for his pansexuality, his most famous male lover was Ganymede. **Dionysus**: Associated w/ queer identity had male lovers Ampelus & Prosymnus. **Artemis**: lesbian figure, favoring the wilderness & a tight-knit sisterhood of female nymphs. **Hermaphroditus and Phanes**: represent intersex and non-binary identities. Hermaphroditus child of Hermes & Aphrodite becoming a deity of both sexes.

Alexander the Great: relationships w/ both men & women. His closest companion was his general **Julius Caesar**: notoriously bisexual. **Emperor Hadrian**: had intense relationship with a young Greek man named Antinous, who drowned in the Nile, Hadrian immortalized him by creating a massive cult, deifying him. **Emperor Nero**: openly engaged in relationships with both sexes and famously "married" two men. In one marriage, he took the role of the wife/bride, and in the other, he was the husband

10 Reject factious **hairetikos** schism, words that divide, contrary teaching that separate. **Cult of cult watchers** guilt by association **Chuck TBN—Greg, Danny, BG** *Perverted, sinning self condemned*—reason for them condemning others As a man thinks in his heart so is he...self-condemned. Or they themselves condemned "I never knew you..."

MH Real heretics have seldom been recovered to the true faith:

12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.

Paul very relational, many friends & co-workers. Scholars estimate 80-100 names Paul acknowledges in his letters and book of Acts. He organized missions, directed people in their ministries **Phil Capetown**

Artemas unknown to us but not to Paul & God--tradition says he became pastor of Lystra. **Tychicus** **Acts 20:4** w/ Paul 1st Roman imprisonment & carried Paul's letters to **Eph 6:21** & **Col 4:7,8** **divine mailman**. One of the two to replace Titus on Crete so he join Paul in Nicopolis in Greece about

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100 mi. NW of Corinth spend winter possibly between 1st-2nd imprisonment. Zenas either Jewish scribe or Greek civil lawyer & Apollos **Acts 18** Possibly they carried this letter to Titus **Act 18:24** & here. Paul sent them on mission & Titus to help them.

14 And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful. 15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

When others pass thru we need to help out, support—sad to come to town & no one shows up or help out. Christians are to **learn** these things, hands on ministry, to serve, be involved, projects, outreaches, help advance faith and salvation in others... *Greeting and Concern* for one another, those w/ me & those w/ you who love us in the faith—We who are in the faith are love.. Gods unearned favor, goodness & love be w/ all of us. **3Jn 1:4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.** Amen