

Theme: The Gospel causes us to live productive and fruitful lives, devoted to good works and helping others.

I. Intro – Consequences of Ideas

- A. Series by RC Sproul on philosophy
- B. Ideas really do change way people live
- C. This is why what we believe and teach matters
- D. We see this in final part of Titus

II. The Problems in Crete

- A. The problem of divisive people (v10; KJV: heretic)
 - 1. People causing arguments, division (v9-10)
 - 2. Cause by false teachings (v9-10)
 - 3. The process
 - a. Warn twice (10; 2 Ti 2:23, 25-26; Mt 18)
 - b. Then avoid (v10; Rom 16:17)
 - c. Issue – divisive & self-condemned (v10-11; 2 Ti 2:23)
- B. The problem of false teachings
 - 1. Foolish, controversial, argumentative (v9; 2 Ti 2:23)
 - 2. Unprofitable and useless (v9)
 - 3. Speculate; never truth or change (2 Ti 3:6-7)

III. A Fruitful Life

- A. The Gospel produces great fruit (v8, 14; NASB; ESV; KJV)
 - 1. v14 – literally ‘unfruitful’
 - 2. Contrasting fruitful vs. useless
- B. Fruitful in good works
 - 1. Produce good works (v8, 14)
 - 2. Key theme in letter (2:7, 14; 3:1)
 - 3. False teachers no good works (3:9; 1:16)
- C. What are the good works? (v14)
 - 1. Provide for own needs (NIV; 2 Th 3:6-8, 9-10)
 - 2. Give help to others (ESV; Eph 4:28; v13-14)

IV. Applying the Word

- A. What teaching do I love?
 - 1. Speculative, silly stuff to tickle ears?
 - 2. Life changing, challenging truth?
 - 3. How do I respond when confronted with truth?
 - 4. True gospel doctrine has consequences in life
- B. Am I producing fruit?

1. Am I a hard worker, providing for my needs?
2. Do I work extra hard to help others?
3. Do I structure my life to help others – money, time, relationships

C. This is the fruit of the Gospel

1. Not for super Christians – all believers
2. Not from our efforts – from drawing unto Christ

A Fruitful Life Devoted to Good Works

Titus 3:8-15

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Psalm 1:2-3 paraphrase (fruitful)

23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels... 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:23-26

17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. Romans 16:17

23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 2 Timothy 2:23

... who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. 2 Timothy 3:6-7

14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Titus 3:14 NASB

6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. Titus 3:14 ESV

28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Ephesians 4:28

13 Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. 14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. Titus 3:13-14 ESV