

Reliable Plan, Profitable Response

Titus 3:8

[8]This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.

Titus 3:8 NLT

1. Five times across the pastoral letters to Timothy and Titus, Paul uses the phrase, "this is a trustworthy saying." Study the trustworthy sayings in these passages. What are the key truths in these trustworthy sayings? Why would Paul add this kind of phrase specifically to the letters to Timothy and Titus that focus on the organization and conduct of the church when there are plenty of important truths in all of his letters?
   1 Timothy 1:15, 3:1, 4:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; Titus 3:4-8

2. Paul insists that those who have been saved by God are to devote themselves to good works. James articulates the same thing in James 2. But neither are suggesting something that was inconsistent with the teachings of Christ. Read Matthew 7:15-21 and John 15:4-5. What does Jesus say about our actions as believers? How do they correlate with our relationship to Christ?

3. The book of Titus gives instruction in serving both the church and also in the community or unbelieving world around us. As you reflect on your current commitments, are you intentionally making space for both? Where would you desire to serve in the church? What about in the community? Commit time in the days and weeks ahead to pray and seek the Lord's guidance on where you could serve.