

Theme: Faith and works are never separated in the gospel or in the life of the believer. "Good works" will always flow from a life that is gripped by faith in, and knowledge of, God our Savior.

Background: We are taking up the last of the Pastoral Epistles, which is very similar to 1 Timothy in tone and focus. It revolves around faith and works.

Introduction: Salvation inevitably brings forth the fruit of godliness. Paul writes to Titus to cultivate the fruit. It begins in the foundation of...

I. Our Salvation

A. In one God and Savior

1. One God - The only God (infinite, eternal, holy) (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4)
2. One Savior (Isaiah 43:11; Isaiah 49:26b; Hosea 13:4)
3. Father and Son - One God
 - a. Servant of God (Eternal, infinite, holy God)
 - b. Apostle of Jesus (humanity) Christ (Savior/Messiah)
 - c. Old Testament - YHWH/Savior = one and the same
 - d. New Testament - God/Savior = One and the same (4b)

B. The Lord's servant

1. Slaves
 - a. *Doulos* - bond-servant
 - b. Owned by another
 - 1.) Bought, paid for (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:23; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
 - 2.) We can't be taken away from him (2:14)
 - 3.) A trusted servant (3)
2. Sent ones
 - a. Apostles - *The 12* - Technical term (Matthew 10:2; Acts 1:26; Revelation 21:14)
 - b. "apostles" - *ones who are sent* - Broader term (Acts 14:14; Romans 1:1; 16:7; Galatians 1:19)

C. The Servant's message

1. Necessity of faith! (John 14:6; 6:37; 10:3,27ff)
2. Through the Word!
3. Necessity of preaching (delivered through the preaching of the Word!)

D. God's sovereignty - Humanity's responsibility

1. No tension in Scripture (or in God)
 - a. God alone is sovereign - "does whatever He pleases" (Psalm 136:6)
 - 1.) Includes salvation - chooses, elects, predestines
 - 2.) Only the Spirit has the power to give life (John 6:63)
 - b. We are fully responsible for our choices/actions - We choose what and whom we serve (Deuteronomy 30:19)
2. Difficulty is in our minds - not God's - We can't fully resolve it. (I'm not surprised! We are not God.)

II. Our Sanctification

A. A dynamic process

1. Faith - trusting, resting in Christ alone for salvation
2. Knowledge
 - a. The greater my knowledge of God and His truth the stronger my faith and trust
 - b. And the greater my desire - and ability - to walk in
3. Godliness

- a. A life conformed to the character, purposes, and plans of God
 - b. Becoming more Christ-like in my whole being
- B. An integrated process
- 1. Self-sustaining when we are engaged in all three
 - 2. Self-destructive when one or more are not present

III. Our Security

A. The promise of God

- 1. Eternal life!
 - a. Quantified
 - 1.) The life of the Creator, not necessarily the created
 - 2.) Eternal/forever
 - b. Quality (Colossians 1:27)
 - 1.) More than eternal existence
 - 2.) That mystery hidden for ages
- 2. Hope - The certainty of what we wait for! (Hebrews 11:1)
 - a. It is a blessed hope indeed!
 - b. A people for His own possession!

B. The God of promise

- 1. Who cannot lie (Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29) - Did God promise a redeemed people as a gift to the Son? (John 6:37)
- 2. From before time
 - a. "Before times eternal," "before the ages began"
 - b. Our salvation was planned from beginning to end in eternity past

C. The Word of God

- 1. At the right time (Galatians 4:4)
 - a. The word of God - Incarnate
 - b. The word of God –Transcribed
- 2. Placed in our hands
 - a. We receive it
 - b. We share it

IV. Our Service

- A. Sharing a common faith (Paul was a Jew; Titus, a Gentile)
- B. Pursuing a more certain faith
- C. With the lasting fruit of godliness