

Expanded Report: Final Instructions and Greetings (Titus 3:12-15)

Prologue: The Call to Active Engagement in Good Works

As the family gathered for their evening study, Ryan opened the Bible to Titus 3:12-15. In this passage, Paul concludes his letter to Titus with practical instructions on ministry and emphasizes the importance of good works. He encourages believers to actively engage in deeds that serve others and meet practical needs. Paul also gives personal updates about his colleagues in ministry and sends a final blessing of grace to Titus and the believers in Crete. The overarching message is that faith should be lived out through actions, especially in serving others and contributing to the needs of the community.

“Tonight, we’re going to talk about how Paul encourages believers to be active in doing good works, especially works that help others in practical ways,” Ryan said. “Paul reminds us that faith is not just about what we believe, but how we live and serve in our communities.”

Ariel, eager to understand how this connects to their daily lives, asked, “So, Paul is saying that we should not just talk about being good, but actually do things to help others?”

“Yes,” Ryan nodded. “Paul emphasizes that good works aren’t just something we talk about; they’re something we actively do, and they should meet real needs in the world around us.”

Alice, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter, added, “So, we should do good things that help people, like helping at home or helping our friends?”

“That’s exactly right,” Yaya smiled. “Good works can be big or small, but they should always be done with love and to help others, just like Jesus did.”

Key Teachings: Engaging in Good Works, Supporting Ministry, and Blessing Others

1. Ministry Colleagues and Their Role in Supporting Good Works

Titus 3:12

“When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.”

- **Paul’s Ministry Colleagues:**

Ryan explained, “Paul is updating Titus about two of his ministry colleagues—Artemas and Tychicus. Paul plans to send one of them to relieve Titus and urges him to come to Nicopolis, where Paul is planning to spend the winter. This shows how Paul worked alongside trusted colleagues to further the ministry and how they supported each other in their tasks.”

Ariel asked, “So, Paul is working with other people in ministry to spread the gospel?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Ministry is not a solo task. Paul worked with others to reach as many people as possible, and they supported one another along the way. This is an example of teamwork in God’s work.”

- **The Importance of Teamwork in Ministry:**

Yaya added, “Ministry requires collaboration. We all have different roles to play in the body of Christ, but together, we can accomplish more than we could on our own. Just like in the church, where everyone has a part, Paul was showing how important it is to work together.”

2. The Importance of Helping Others Through Good Works

Titus 3:14

“And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.”

- **Active Engagement in Good Works:**

Ryan explained, “Paul is telling believers that they should ‘maintain good works for necessary uses.’ This means that we are called to actively do good works that serve the needs of others—whether it’s helping someone in need, supporting the work of the church, or simply showing kindness to others.”

Ariel asked, “So, we should look for ways to help people with real needs?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Paul is teaching us that good works are meant to meet practical needs—whether that’s helping a neighbor, supporting a mission project, or just being there for someone who needs encouragement.”

- **The Call to Be Fruitful in Good Works:**

Ryan continued, “Paul emphasizes that we should ‘not be unfruitful.’ This means that our faith should produce results—good works that reflect the love of Christ and make a difference in the world.”

Yaya added, “When we live out our faith through good works, we show the world the love of Jesus. Our actions should bear fruit that blesses others and brings glory to God.”

3. Personal Blessings and Grace to the Believers

Titus 3:15

“All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.”

- **A Final Blessing of Grace:**

Ryan explained, “Paul closes his letter with a final greeting and blessing. He asks Titus to greet all those who love him in the faith and sends a final blessing of grace to the believers. This reminds us that the Christian life is one of mutual encouragement and grace.”

Ariel asked, “So, Paul is sending a message of grace to everyone, just like we send good wishes to our friends?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Paul’s greeting is a reminder that we are all part of the same family in Christ, and we should support and encourage one another with grace.”

- **The Role of Grace in Christian Fellowship:**

Yaya added, “Grace is what binds us together as believers. We don’t deserve God’s love or

favor, but He gives it to us freely. As believers, we're called to extend that same grace to one another, lifting each other up and encouraging one another in the faith."

4. The Key Teaching: Believers Must Actively Engage in Good Works

Key Teaching:

The key teaching of this passage is that believers must actively engage in good works that serve practical needs and reflect Christ's love. Paul encourages believers to maintain a focus on productive, godly deeds, rather than getting distracted by unimportant arguments or divisions. By serving others, helping in ministry, and encouraging one another, Christians demonstrate the fruit of the gospel in their lives. In addition, Paul's greeting reminds us that we are part of a greater Christian fellowship, where grace and mutual support should abound.

Ryan summarized, "Paul is teaching us that the Christian life is one of action. We're not just saved by grace—we're saved to do good works, to serve others, and to reflect Christ's love in the world. And through it all, we are supported by the grace of God and the fellowship of the body of Christ."

Practical Applications: Living Out Good Works and Fellowship

The family discussed how they could apply these teachings in their daily lives:

1. Engaging in Good Works to Serve Others:

Ariel suggested, "We can look for ways to help others, like doing chores for our neighbors, supporting people in need, or even helping at church events."

Alice added, "I can be kind to my friends, help them with their work, and share with them when they need something."

2. Supporting the Ministry:

Ryan encouraged them, "We can also support the work of the church, whether that's praying for our pastors, helping with church activities, or supporting missionaries. Every part of the body is needed to do God's work."

Yaya reminded them, "Even small acts of service can make a big impact. No matter how old we are, we all have a role to play in God's work."

3. Living in Grace and Fellowship:

Yaya added, "We can also live with grace in our relationships, supporting and encouraging each other in our faith. When we extend grace to others, we help build a strong and loving community."

Takeaway: Actively Engage in Good Works and Live in Grace

As the family reflected, Yaya shared a story about a time when she saw the power of small, loving actions. "There was a time when I saw a neighbor going through a tough time, and just offering a meal

or a word of encouragement made a huge difference. It reminded me that good works don't always have to be big—they can be simple acts of love.”

Ariel smiled, “So, even small things like being kind to someone can be good works?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “and those small acts, done in God’s grace, add up to a life that reflects the love of Christ.”

Key Points Summary

1. The Call to Good Works:

- Believers are called to actively engage in good works, serving others and meeting practical needs in the community.

2. The Role of Grace in Fellowship:

- Grace is what binds us together as believers, enabling us to encourage and support one another in our walk of faith.

3. Living in a Way That Reflects Christ’s Love:

- Our actions should reflect the love of Christ, whether we’re helping others, supporting ministry, or living in fellowship with fellow believers.
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Key Verse:

“Let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.”
(Titus 3:14)

This passage teaches us that salvation leads to a life of fruitful service. We are called to actively engage in good works that meet the practical needs of others and reflect the love of Christ. Through these works, we bear fruit for God’s kingdom and show the world the impact of His grace.