

LESSON PLAN

FAITH AT WORK

Titus 2–3

Lesson Memory Verse: Titus 3:8 - "...that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children that they will joyfully work for God and for others, if they have true faith.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): (Bring to class a mechanical pencil.) Have you ever seen a pencil like this that does not work? Maybe you bought it or maybe it was given to you, but there was something wrong with it and it did not work. That can be disappointing until you find out how to fix it. The pencil I have does not work because there is no lead in it. Is this pencil any good without lead? Can you write a letter without lead in the pencil? No! If it is not possible to find some lead for this pencil, it is no good. But if you can find some lead and put it in the pencil, you will be able to use it once again.

A boy or a girl without Christ is like a pencil without any lead. Without Christ a person cannot work for God any more than a pencil without lead can work for you and me. But when that person asks Christ to come into his life, he can do a good work for God. Our memory verse says that all believers should be careful to maintain good works.

HE (for Authority): What does it mean when it says a believer is to "be careful to maintain" good works? This is a believer that gives close attention to his responsibility to produce good works. He makes every effort to fulfill his Christian duty every day of his life. A Christian must have a goal to do good works throughout his entire life. This is what God expects of him.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today we will talk about the good works that Christians should do and how to get the power to do them.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

I. What is True Faith in Christ? (See an earlier lesson on "Saving Faith.")

A. True faith is the assurance that God is faithful to keep His promises – Heb 11:1-39.

When you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, God promises to give you the power to work for Him (Phil 2:13; 4:13). You can only use this power by faith. You must believe God will give it to you as you need it. It is like believing in your flashlight. You believe it has good batteries, so you carry it with you on a dark night. By faith in that flashlight, you flip the switch to turn on the light so you can see in the dark. If you are saved, you can believe that God will give you the power to do what is right, even when it is a hard thing to do. He is more faithful than a flashlight. Can you think of times when you needed God's help to do the right thing? (Give children an opportunity to answer. Possible answers: (1) when he is afraid of the dark; (2) when he is tempted to go along with friends that are doing wrong; and (3) when he should witness to some friend.)

B. True faith is the conviction that God is here though He is not seen – 1 Tim 1:17.

A Christian may not have a visible partner with him, but he is not alone. God is with him to protect him and help to do the works that he has been commanded to do (Mt 28:19-20). Faith in the presence of the almighty God will make the Christian a bold worker for Him,

II. What Does True Faith in Christ Do?

A. It purifies believers so they can be zealous to do good works (Tit 2:14).

Christ gave Himself for us by dying on the cross so that He might redeem sinners, even professing believers (Tit 1:16), from all sin and purify unto Himself a special people zealous of good works. The good works of an unsaved person cannot save him from Hell (Tit 3:5; Eph 2:8-9); but the good works of a saved person will please God (1 Pet 2:29).

B. It produces good works that will glorify God in Heaven (Mt 5:16).

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When does a candle shine? A candle shines after it has been touched by fire. . Then it gives light in a dark room so we can see one another. When do Christians shine? Christians shine when they have been touched by the grace of God and saved by Jesus Christ. Then they shine in the darkened minds of sinful people so they can see God. Can you name some ways that Christians can “shine” for God? (Possible answers: sharing food; hospital visitation; emergency care; witnessing for Christ with love; obeying parents and teachers.)

C. It produces good works that will make believers fruitful (Tit 3:14; Jn 435-36; 15:16).

Being careful to practice good works by the power of Jesus Christ will make a Christian fruitful in making good friends and in winning unsaved people to Jesus Christ.

D. It produces good works that are profitable for believers (Tit 3:8; Phil 2:16-17; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor 5:10).

Christians will have joy in Heaven for faithfully giving sinners the Word of God when they are judged for their works in the day of Christ. This day comes after the Rapture when believers are rewarded (1 Cor 3:11-16; 2 Cor 5:19). When Johnny obeyed his father and mother at home and did what they told him, they were so pleased that they took him to a hockey game as a reward. God rewards His children, too, if they do what He tells them. He will reward them in Heaven with rewards that are far better than any reward on earth.

Christians receive joy now as they work diligently to bring sinners to Christ and build up the believers (Phil 2:16-17).

WE: We should be zealous to do good works; they will bless God and He will reward us.

APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE – “Not Good Enough” (The story of John Wesley)

John Wesley was born over 250 years ago in England. He was one of many children in his family. His mother, Suzanna Wesley, loved God and spent time with each one of her children teaching each one about Him. When John was a teenager, he went away to Oxford, a fine school, and there he decided that he would become a preacher. He was a “good” person as far as other people could see. In fact, he even crossed the ocean from England to America to be a missionary to the Indians and colonists in Georgia, which was a young colony at that time. Even though John was “good,” he had never been saved.

WE: Boys and girls, we may be like John and think we are good enough to get to Heaven by our good works, but we are wrong. Like John, we need to be saved.

One day while he was on the ship crossing the sea, a big storm came up. The people became very frightened. John was frightened, too. Everyone was afraid except a small group of people known as Moravian Brethren. They just stayed together praying and singing. John asked them how they could be so calm. One of the Moravian Brethren, the pastor, Mr. Spangenberg, explained that they were not worried because they had Jesus as their Savior and He was watching over them. Mr. Spangenberg asked John if he was saved.

“Oh, yes,” John replied, “I know He is the Savior of the world.”

“Well, then,” said the pastor, “has He saved you? Do you have the witness of the Spirit?” John said he did, but inside he felt very guilty. He knew that he had lied to the man. He knew that the Holy Spirit was not living inside of him. He did not have the witness of the Spirit.

After some time the ship arrived in Georgia. John worked very hard to make people love God, but he couldn’t do it. He worked hard to make God pleased with him, but he knew God wasn’t pleased. He had failed and sadly started the long dangerous trip across the Atlantic Ocean back to England.

But John had not forgotten that talk he had had with the pastor of the Moravian Brethren. He began to realize that he had been trying to work his way to Heaven. He had thought he was good enough. But now, as he prayed and read his Bible, he saw that he was a sinner. Finally one day, after John had been back in England for some time, he cried out to God in prayer, asking Jesus to save him and live inside of him. In simple faith he accepted Jesus as his Savior. Then, at last, he knew that he was truly saved because he was putting his faith in Jesus as the Bible said and not in his own works. When he trusted

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Jesus, God gave him “the witness of the Spirit.” (John knew the Holy Spirit was living inside him because the Bible said so.)

WE: We, too, have the Holy Spirit live inside us when we confess our sins and ask Jesus to save us. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit will speak to us through the Bible; then we will know that we are saved (Romans 8:16).

Now John was a very different person because he had been saved. He was so happy that he wanted to tell everybody how to become a Christian. He began to preach everywhere. He preached to crowds of people in the streets. Thousands of people came to hear John Wesley tell about Jesus’ love for them. Many, many people were saved. John Wesley became the leader of these new Christians. He spent the rest of his life working hard for the Lord. Now he did not work to be saved, but he worked to please his wonderful Lord who had saved him.

WE: When we are truly saved, we will feel like John did; we will want to work hard for the Lord because He has saved us from our sins and changed us into a new person (2 Cor 5:17).

Many times John Wesley rode on horseback from town to town. He often rode 50 or 60 miles a day so that he could tell people about Jesus. He wrote books explaining the Bible so that people could understand it better. He wrote hymns to praise God.

John Wesley died when he was an old man. He went to Heaven because he had received Jesus by faith as his Savior. John Wesley will receive many rewards from the Lord because he kept producing good works during his entire Christian life.

BE (for Action): Today we have talked about faith that works for God. Do you have faith that wants to do good works for God? What good works can you do for God? (As each child suggests something, write down his suggestion on a card and put his name on the suggestion he gives. When every child has made a suggestion, give each child his card.) Challenge the children to try to do what they suggested every day of the coming week.