

The Firm Foundation of Elohim Stands Part 4 — Saved for Good Deeds

Titus 2:7-8 — This is the commandment of our God, which, with the rest of the scriptures, teaches us how to do these good deeds. *So in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds*, good works that have been prearranged in advance for you to do. Verse 14 says that He is purifying for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. They are purified from lawless deeds, zealous for good deeds. Lawless deeds are what you do when you are not led by the Spirit. But if you get into other things (Rom 8:13-14), you are wayward, and you may not belong to Him. Then Titus 3:1 — *“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed...”* and verse 3 — *“For once we also were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”* We were also once foolish.

What does *foolish* mean? Lacking normal intelligence, mindless, dense, exhibiting lack of brains? Another way you can be foolish is showing poor judgment, being irresponsible, stupid, failing to use your thinking ability. And still another way to use the word *foolish* is lacking the maturity to be discriminating, being infantile, mentally or psychologically immature, easily deceived, easily led away. What kind of foolishness do we exhibit? Are we disobedient, enslaved to various things? What are you enslaved to? What are you habitually enslaved to? Various lusts and pleasures? Spending your lives in malice, useless talk, ill will, talking about others, joking, acting like a fool (like throwing fire crackers), envying, hating?

Titus 3:4 — But when the kindness of our God appeared, what happened? Faith came to us. It was not there before, but then it came and we were saved. Then in verse 5, did He save us because of those good things we were doing back in our old days? No. We were not doing anything good. He saved us not on the basis of anything we had done that was good, but according to His mercy. We are not saved by good deeds, are we? But we are saved *for* good deeds (Eph 2:10). We are not saved by good deeds, since we were foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved, spending our life in malice, uselessness. Then it goes on in verse 8 — *“...so that those who have truly believed, put their trust in Him [terminated their life and are now a disciple of God], may be careful to engage in good deeds.”* This means being careful to be led by the Spirit because that is how we are careful to engage in good deeds. And what if we are not careful (1 Cor 3:10)? We are irresponsible. So these things are good and profitable for us to know.

In Titus 3:14 it says, *“and let our people [meaning those who belong to Messiah] learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs so that they may not be unfruitful.”* So you can see in Titus 3:3 that we could lead an unproductive life. What if we do live unproductive lives? We are worthless. In Rev 21:8 you can see where worthless people are finally put, because they did things that were worthless, because they *were* worthless. A worthless person does worthless things. In Rev 21:8 you can see the cowards, unbelieving, people who do worthless things, detestable, abominable things, murderers, sexually immoral, the people who say they speak for God but do not, idolaters, and all those who love to lie — their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death.

But (Titus 2:11-14), *“the grace of God has appeared, ...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from...”* the pit of lawlessness, from the pit of worthlessness. He came to redeem us, buy us, purchase us, take us out of that place where we were just led along by every spirit that came along, and to purify for Himself a people who are zealous for good deeds. And then Titus 3:4 talks about when the kindness of our God and our Savior and His love for us appeared. You cannot be saved unless you see the kindness of God and our Savior and His love for us *when it appeared*, came into focus. He did not save us on the basis of the deeds we did, because we also were foolish ourselves, enslaved to various lusts, spending our lives in malice and ill will and envying and hating one another. So it is not on the basis of any good we might think we might have done. It is not on the basis of that, but more than anything else, we were taken out of the pit of worthlessness, that miry clay that Ps 40:1

3 talks about. And if He has not put a new song in your mouth, then you are still in the pit, in the filth and slime (Titus 3:3-8). We must be careful to engage in the good deeds that were prearranged for us (2 Cor 5:10).

Dan 12:10 — Concerning those of us in theedah (His witness), who is going to be purified and who is not going to be purified? When it really boils down to it, we go right back to 2 Tim 2:19 — whoever's name is engraved there in that foundation, those who belong to Him, whom He knows belong to Him, who are engraved in that foundation stone, carved in that rock. He knows who are His, and those who are His *must not be worthless* anymore but be engaged in good deeds, abstain from lawlessness.