

3 Things Preacher's Must Constantly Affirm

Titus 3:8

Titus is one of the “pastoral epistles” along with 1 & 2 Timothy. Paul wrote these letters to two of his “preacher boys” regarding the office and work of a pastor.

Our text is one of several faithful sayings of Paul (1 Tim. 1:15; 4:8-9; 2 Tim. 2:11). “A *faithful saying*” is a statement that is reliable in all situations.

“*These things I will that thou AFFIRM CONSTANTLY...*” The word “*affirm*” means “to make firm; to assert strongly; to uphold.” There are some things a pastor must **constantly** preach about. “*Constantly*” means continuously... persistently... all the time! [WHY? Because they are important, profitable, and there is a danger of forgetting them.]

“*These things are GOOD and PROFITABLE...*” **What things?**

I. **A good WAY to live**—“...*they which have believed in God...*”

➡ You will be known by what you believe. Your actions are the product of your beliefs.

A. **Saved by faith** (Eph. 2:8-9).

1. Salvation is not of works (Titus 3:5).
2. Salvation is by grace (Titus 3:7).

B. **Live by faith** after you are saved (“...*they which have BELIEVED...*”). Some people live by sight! They must have it all figured out.

➡ Colossians 2:6—*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

➡ Believing in God is better than WORRYING! **ILLUS - Acts 27:25**

- What are you going to do if your friends or family turns against you? Believe in God
- What are you going to do if you get cancer? Believe in God.
- What are you going to do if there is no God? Believe God anyway!

“HAVE FAITH IN GOD.”

C. Do you have this testimony? “...*they which have believed in God...*”— Then **live like you believe God!**

II. A good **WORK to maintain**—“...*be careful to maintain good works...*”

➡ Salvation is only the beginning. Good works should follow believing in God (Eph. 2:8-10; 1 Tim. 6:18; Heb. 10:24)!

➡ Good works are to be MAINTAINED (see 2:7; 3:1; 3:14).

One university study listed the most important words in the English language. Among the most important words is the word “**mainte-nance.**”

A. **REQUIREMENT** of maintenance. Everything in the human realm requires maintenance— Without maintenance, it will fall apart!

➡ No such thing as “maintenance free.”

➡ **ILLUS**—Maintenance of the Temple (1 Chron. 26:26-27).

➡ God supplied the initial fire on the altar. Thereafter the priest had to MAINTAIN the fire—“...*the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning*” (Lev. 6:12).

The law of entropy and the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics: Everything is constantly becoming more random and disorderly.

- You can clean up a room, but left to itself, it becomes dusty and musty without doing anything.
- Do nothing and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out.
- Clocks run down; knives become dull; clothes fall apart; steel rusts (Mt. 6:19); wood stoves go out. “*Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out*” (Prov. 26:20).

➡ Murphy was a firm believer in the law of entropy—**Murphy’s Law:**

- “Any thing that can go wrong will go wrong.”
- “Anything that cannot go wrong will go wrong.”
- “Nothing is ever so bad that it cannot get worse.”

- “Any time something goes right, it goes right so it can eventually go wrong.”
- “Any horizontal surface is soon piled up.”
- “Any clean shirt will attract mustard, ketchup, or salsa.”
- “Dirt is inevitable—In order for something to become clean, something else must become dirty.”

➡ **DARWIN WAS WRONG**—Things are not getting better. Things are getting worse.

1. Our Body
 2. Our house— *“By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through”* (Eccl. 10:18).
 3. A garden— *“I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction...”* (Prov. 24:30-32).
 4. Our automobiles (“Pay me now, or pay me later.”)
 5. Our relationships
- B. RESPONSIBILITY** to maintain—Our spiritual walk with the Lord must also be maintained (text).
1. *“BE CAREFUL”* shows that this is something we need to be **attentive** to. Opposite of careful is careless. Carelessness will lead to the weeds of sin cropping up in your life.
 2. The opposite of maintenance is **NEGLECT**. Fallow ground (plowed but unseeded) becomes hard through **NEGLECT**.
➡ *“Neglect not the gift that is in thee...”* (1 Tim. 4:14).
- C. REMINDER** to maintain— The **PREACHER’S JOB** — **KEEP AFFIRMING YOUR NEED TO MAINTAIN (Keep in good repair)...**
1. Good work of **STUDY**— Keep reading and studying your Bible!
 2. Good work of **SOUL WINNING**— Keep passing out tracts, serving in G.R.O.W., and telling people about Jesus!

3. Good work of STEWARDSHIP— Keep tithing and giving to missions!
 4. Good work of SERVICE— Keep serving the Lord: Keep teaching that S.S. class... singing in the choir... working in the nursery... ushering; etc.
- ➡ *“...be careful to maintain good works...”*— Has your good works developed weeds due to lack of maintenance.

Cf. 3:14—When we fail to maintain things they...

- Lose their attractiveness
- Lose their effectiveness.
- Lose their value and cost more to maintain (Prov. 10:4).

III. **A good WITNESS to exhibit**—*“These things are good and PROFITABLE unto men...”*

- A. It is profitable for men to witness your belief in God backed up by good works to lead them to do the same (Mt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12, 15; James 2:18-20).
- B. *“These things are good and PROFITABLE unto men...”* – How profitable is your behavior to those who observe your “good works?”

SUMMATION: Two kinds of maintenance:

1. Preventive maintenance - taking care of problems before they occur.
2. Corrective maintenance - taking care of problems after they occur.

Remember them this way:

1. Preventive maintenance - REPEAT YOUR GOOD ACTIONS
2. Corrective maintenance - REPAIR YOUR BAD ACTIONS

Proper automobile maintenance will help prevent a breakdown on the highway—Spiritual maintenance will also prevent a spiritual breakdown on the highway of life!

I see **Christian breakdowns** all the time. They are almost always a result of neglecting to maintain their walk with God.

“How shall we escape if we NEGLECT so great salvation?”