

## SHOW THYSELF A PATTERN

*In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our savior in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee (Tit. 2:7-15).*

A pattern is something to go by or to follow. It is a representation of what a thing is to look like. It is used for the making of duplicates. A Christian is a pattern others can follow to also be Christians. Titus 2:7-15 discusses the presence of the pattern, the particulars of the proper pattern, the purpose of the pattern, and the prospect of the pattern.

**The presence of the pattern:** Every one of us is a pattern; that is beyond question. Someone is watching everyone of us, and to some extent, they are doing what we do. Maybe it is our children, another relative, or a friend, but someone is using your life as a pattern. Someone is doing the things you do and saying the things you say. They see how you react in certain situations and at least attempt to apply it to their own lives. One can attempt to hide what and who he is from others, but they see us anyway—so, what do they see? God has given us the pattern in His word that details the kind of example we are to be. Are we living up to the demands of His pattern?

**The particulars of the proper pattern:** Paul instructed Titus to show himself a pattern of good works. There are four particulars given in which Titus was to be careful to present himself as a good pattern. Titus was to be a pattern in **works**. Like all Christians, he was to do good works, not evil ones. It is the word of God, not the views of men, that is the standard for what are good works and evil. Men often fall into the trap of calling the one the other. Titus was to be a pattern in **uncorrupt doctrine**. A thing that is corrupted is one that has been defiled by ingredients that are not part of its composition. The doctrines of man corrupt the doctrine of God. Corrupt doctrine will result in anathema from God. Titus was to be a pattern of good works in his **speech**. It was to be sound speech that cannot be condemned. It was not to be profane, blasphemous, or condemnatory speech, and metaphorically, speech that did not deviate from the truth. Titus was to be a pattern of good works in the matter of **exhortation**. For instance, he was to teach servants to be loyal to the masters, and to be obedient in all things. Whether Titus, servants to physical masters, or any other Christian in yoke with the heavenly master, all are to be unquestionably obedient to Him in everything.

**The purpose of the pattern:** Why was Titus (and by extension us) to be a pattern of good works? First, because the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all. In other words, salvation is available to all, but as per other passages, that grace must be appropriated by obedience to God's commands in order to receive its benefits. Second, this passage reveals that grace teaches us with both negative and positive messages. Deny, that is reject or put off, ungodliness and worldly lusts. A life of sin is antithetical to a proper pattern. Worldly desires result in worldly actions, which are not of the Father and will pass away. The positive message is to live soberly in mind and body, righteously, and godly in this present world. A terrible outcome will come to those who do not learn the lessons of God's saving grace. Third, the pattern is given because for however long it is, we do have our lives to live on this earth. Life in this world is the preparation for life in the next. Each one is living in such a way as to prepare himself for destruction with the devil and his angels, or with God and the redeemed in heavenly bliss. If our pattern in this life is evil, it will not only result in the loss of our own souls, but likely in the loss of the souls of others.

**The prospect of the pattern:** Those who show themselves a pattern of good works have a blessed hope for the appearing of the Lord Christ. It isn't just a wish that He would come, and a wish for heaven. A wish does not manifest expectation, but hope combines both the wish and the expectation. We know that Christ is coming again, because He promised He will. We have hope, and expectation that when He comes He will take us home to glory forever. We have a basis for that hope that is far more solid than our own goodness. If we had to "good" our way to heaven, we would never make it. The basis for our hope is that Christ gave Himself to redeem us from iniquity and to purify unto Himself a people zealous of good works. Those last five words assure us that the redemption and purification is not without our contribution. We must work to sustain the purity we have through Him, and for which Christ died. Our redemption is not a license to continue living in sin, but to be zealously involved in the activities God reveals as good.

Everyone is a pattern. What kind of pattern are you? This passage tells us how to be a pattern that pleases God and one which results in eternal life. To live contrary to God's pattern leads to sorrow in this life, and eternal sorrow after this life is over. Show thyself a pattern of good works!

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