

Msg. #6 in the series, “CHANGED FOR GOOD—making the teaching about God our Savior attractive”

Sermon title: “EVERLASTING BEAUTY”

Text: Titus 3:1-8

Questions for reflection and response:

1. Titus 3:1-8 opens with an urgent command that Titus remind the Cretan believers about what “doing good” looks like in the believer. Why do you suppose a reminder of this nature was important for Titus and the context of his ministry in Crete? Do you think a reminder of this nature is important for us today? Give a rationale for your answer.

2. Of the various characteristics of the person doing good listed in Titus 3:1-2, share which ones pose the greatest challenge for you. Give examples of how each of these characteristics might be demonstrated in daily life.

3. In your opinion, how active are Christ-followers in promoting the welfare of the community in which they reside? Do you feel the participation you observe is adequate or needs to increase? What might be the rationale behind some Christ-followers being leery of participating in improving one’s community?

4. As stated in the message, a Christ-follower’s motivation for doing good stems from having a clear understanding of at least three things: one’s past, God’s work of salvation and the benefits of doing good. Take a moment to consider how each of these motivators impact the way we live:

- a) *How does having a clear picture of our unsaved condition serve as a motivating force in the choices we make for doing good? How has this understanding personally motivated you recently? How often does this understanding help center your life and commitment to do what is good for others? Do you feel that Christ-followers in general contemplate their former condition enough? Is it possible to have an unhealthy preoccupation with one’s past? What might be the results of such a preoccupation?*
- b) *Having a clear understanding of God’s work of salvation in one’s life is a motivating force for choosing to do good. Why do you suppose this is so? How does this understanding help forge in the believer a commitment to do good for others? Do you feel that Christ-followers in general, have a clear understanding of God’s work of salvation in their lives?*
- c) *Being convinced that doing good for others has a huge spiritual impact on their lives is very motivating. Can you share a personal story about how your involvement in doing good for someone helped them toward a relationship with Jesus Christ?*