

Titus 3:9-15 | Final warnings and remarks to Titus

⁹But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. ¹²As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. ¹³Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. ¹⁴Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. ¹⁵Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Look

Verse 9 “Genealogies . . . quarrels about the law”—There are many genealogies in the Old Testament. They serve to trace the line of the Savior, give recognition to godly and brave people in Israel, and make clear who belonged to Israel and who did not. Some Jewish Christians seemed to delight in debating such genealogical lists. They also liked to dispute how the Old Testament laws were to be put into practice. All of this kept people away from the faith.

Verse 10 “Divisive”—The Greek word used here gives us our word heretic and literally means “able to take or choose.” The God’s Word to the Nations translation includes this thought by translating, “a person who chooses to be different in his teaching.”

Verses 12,13 “Artemas . . . Tychicus . . . Zenas . . . Apollos”—Even late in life, Paul had members of a missionary team active in various places. Artemas and Zenas are mentioned only here. Tychicus is mentioned in several other books. Apollos played a major role in mission work in Ephesus and Corinth.

Digging Deeper

1. What are things Paul calls unprofitable and useless?
2. What makes a false teacher a divisive person? What is the church to do with such a person?
3. What was Titus to do for Zenas and Apollos?

Application

4. Agree or disagree: We should avoid false teachings but keep warning the false teachers.
5. Paul sends greetings to “those who love us in the faith” (verse 15). What bond does faith establish between believers?