



# Titus #11

## Titus 3:8-15

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March 29, 2026

### Outline

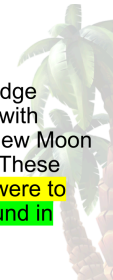
- Palm Sunday
- Titus 3:8
- Lent Sermon Review
- Titus 3:9-15
- Good Friday



Today's theme is "doing good" but I also want to talk about Palm Sunday...so let's consider both of these together today. Then we'll conclude the book of Titus and talk about Good Friday which is next.

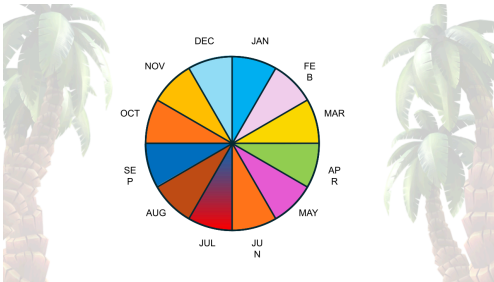
### Colossians 2

<sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

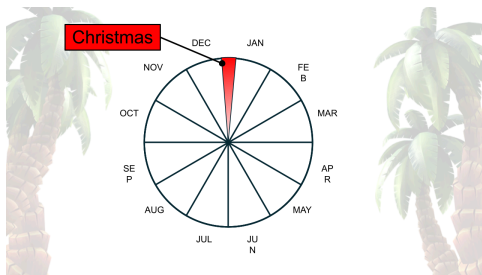


I had varying levels of affection for liturgy and celebrations and then I met Lauren who was from an Anglican Church and she showed me about things like Lent...and then I swung the other way and I couldn't understand people who DIDN'T celebrate things like Lent. These verses in Colossians helped me gain perspective on all these practices. Our pastors talk about invitations...things they want us to consider. Yet when Jesus invites us into things are more like commands. So today, I want to talk about things that I'm personally excited about which are

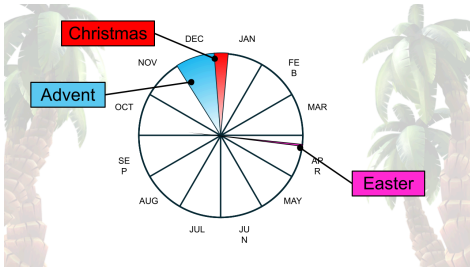
invitations but not commands.



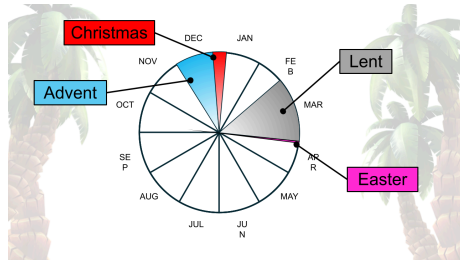
Here are the colors that I see in my mind when I think of certain months. I realized without knowing it that I had a personal liturgy of yearly events, like my dad's birthday in September is when football starts. .



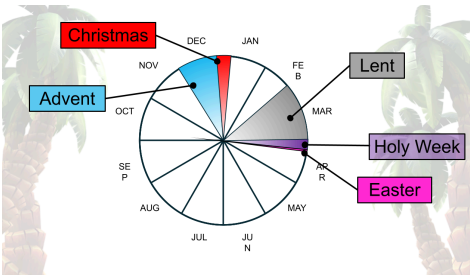
But this slide shows what I really thought about the calendar when I was younger: everything surrounded Christmas.



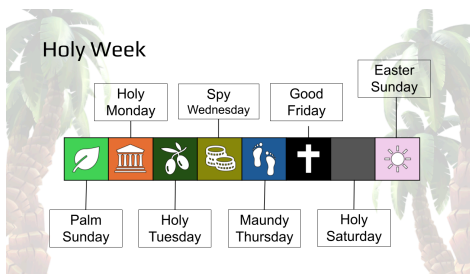
Then eventually, I added another celebration called Easter, which was definitely a minor holiday compared to Christmas. Yet, truthfully, Easter is the main event: without Jesus's resurrection, we would have no faith.



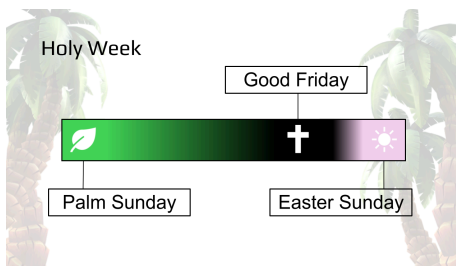
Between Christmas and Easter, there is a season called Lent and before Christmas we have Advent. Notice that Lent is a big portion of the year, more or less depending on what I fast from. I love this because it magnifies Easter, which is the point of Lent.



Now we are in this portion of the year called Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of this week: each day has traditional things we could focus on. I have tried in the past to focus on each day of Holy Week but I fizzle out. I rely on Colossians 2: absorb what is useful, discard what is not: magnify Christ in what you are doing (the Bruce Lee approach).



Today, we on Palm Sunday and we are headed towards Easter.



There are different crowds headed toward different things, going from worshiping Jesus on Sunday to substituting a criminal for him by Good Friday. What happened? The reality is that there was one public opinion and then shortly, a very different opinion. I too can drift from good really easily.

Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to **doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

How does this happen? Titus 3:8 helps us answer this. As we've been doing, we start out with a hook back to the previous verses. The idea of *doing good* is compelling because I think I have a correct idea in my mind of what doing good looks like. When I wrestle with this question, "*What is good?*" I think about 9 years ago when I asked this question as a grad student sitting in Mark's living room and he answered, "God is good."

Matthew 19

<sup>16</sup> Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, **what good thing must I do** to get eternal life?"  
<sup>17</sup> "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "**There is only One who is good.**"

Mark was referring to these verses in Matthew 19. Our idea of "good" is full of assumptions and Jesus tells us he is good.

But how do we become uncalibrated to what is good? Let's go back to Titus 3:8.

Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy **saying**. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to **doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

The word "saying" means something that is repeated, like a trustworthy proverb.

You may know there were some good things that happened in the basketball world last night: I have many memories surrounding my memories of past games, but I had completely fallen out of calibration of what was true. Without it, I lose sight of what was good.

Joel 2

<sup>12</sup> "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."  
<sup>13</sup> **Rend your heart** and **not your garments**.  
Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending

God also invites us to sing a new song about Him: the idea is that we all have a song in our heart but it changes tunes, may be even out of tune, as we go through our days. What is the song that we are singing in our heart? What are we being invited to sing?

What is Lent?

1. A season of **preparation** for resurrection
2. Confession before **celebration**
3. Remembering mortality (Genesis 3:19)
4. Communal transformation

This brings us to our lenten sermon series in Titus: here are some of the things that stood out to me:

1. Joel 2 says "Rend your hearts, not your garments."

The crux is not to change external habits but to examine where our heart is, especially noticing what the song of our heart is. Lent allows our hearts to be broken.

2. Preparation season and confession: not to feel bad

about ourselves because it enriches and is a full part of the gospel.

Titus 3:3

At one time **we too** were **foolish, disobedient**, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and **hating one another**.

3. We remember our mortality: *to dust we will return*. That is the heart and idea behind Lent to remember the curse from which we need rescuing.

4. Pastor Sue drew out how we foolishly make decisions and don't listen to counsel.

Titus 3:5a

He **saved** us, not because of righteous things we **had done**, but because of his mercy.

5. Pastor Mark talked about Jesus saving us as equivalent to healing us: Superman grabs us from the burning building to let us continue on with our lives. This contrasts to Jesus who heals us over time as he lives life with us.

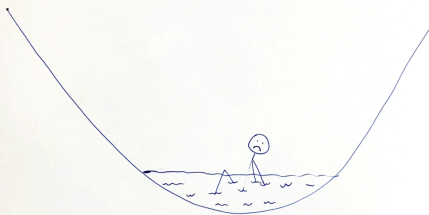
6. Mark also invited us to consider how we put the cart before the horse and try to clean up our lives before we come to Him: he wants to do the cleaning up part.

Titus 3:7

So that, having been justified by his **grace**, we might become **heirs** having the hope of eternal life.

7. Pastor Daniel helped us understand that we have a legal and relational connection to Christ.

Here is Lucy's (age 5) drawing depicting us lying in the mud.

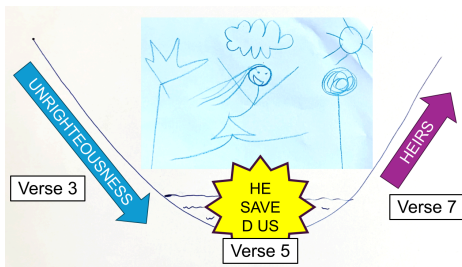


Titus 3:5 NKJV

**Not by works of righteousness** which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us**, through the washing of **regeneration and renewing** of the Holy Spirit

Jesus saves us in the middle of our unrighteousness. We started with this and ended with...





Here is the trustworthy saying that Titus is talking about: Jesus didn't just save us but there is more to recall and consider regarding our salvation. This is what I was missing about Easter in my past.

Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy **saying**. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to **doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Are you singing the song of the Gospel in your heart? Are you letting it be sung to you and are you singing it to others? This is not just an uncalibrated idea of doing what is good: what we want to start with the Gospel.

Titus 3:9

But avoid **foolish controversies** and genealogies and arguments and **quarrels** about the law, because these are **unprofitable and useless**.

There are also some negative aspects that we are warned about. It's fair to say that these foolish controversies are antithetical to the Gospel: however, we might disagree on these fundamental parts of the Gospel. I caution you to ask other people and approach with humility. Otherwise, I tend to think I have the gospel and you are foolish..

Titus 3:10

Warn a **divisive** person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, **have nothing to do with them**.

This verse is a serious word about divisiveness. I don't think we take it very seriously... imagine if I announced that I had said some divisive words this week and I want to repent. Now let's pray. But what if I said "I had an affair this week, and I want to repent: now let's pray." You would have a totally different reaction to this. But divisiveness deserves our serious reaction.

What is divisive? To be factious, encourage divisions...it is being prone to an "us vs. them" mentality. Let's figure out who's in which camp and hang out with the people in our camp. Do I have an us vs them mindset? Do I think divisively about something?

Titus 3:11

**You may be sure** that such people are warped and sinful; they are **self-condemned**.

Verse 11 almost sounds judgmental to me. But I think it's inviting an elder to choose to remove themselves from the equation and to choose a non-divisive response. Their actions have brought them to this place. As non-elders, we aren't supposed to figure out who is warped and sinful: this is a heavy responsibility.

Titus 3:12-13

As 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. Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos **on their way** and see that they have everything they need.

These next verses don't give me many specifics about what these people were doing: maybe they were replacing elders or even becoming missionaries.

The Gospel tells us who is doing the real work in our community: God is doing the work. We have some strong leaders in our church but I sometimes think, what will we do if our pastors leave? God is the same before and after.

Titus 3:14

Our people must learn to devote themselves to **doing what is good**, in order to provide for **urgent** needs and not live unproductive lives.

Also, there is an invitation to provide and equip those who are furthering the Gospel.

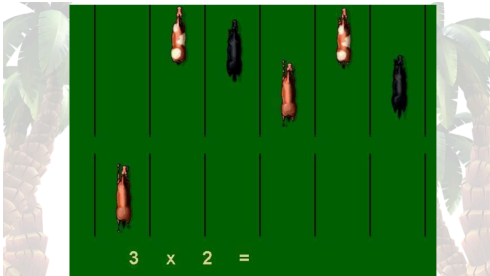
This concept of going what is good is that there are urgent needs that demand a readiness, urgent posture. But this is superseded by the Gospel in our lives that urges us to do what is good.

3:15

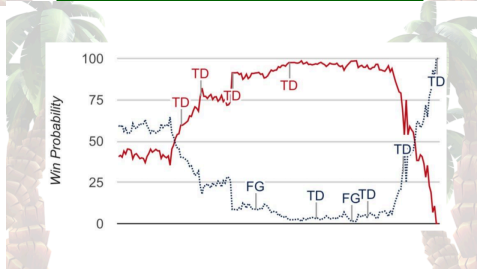
**Everyone** with me sends you **greetings**. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all.

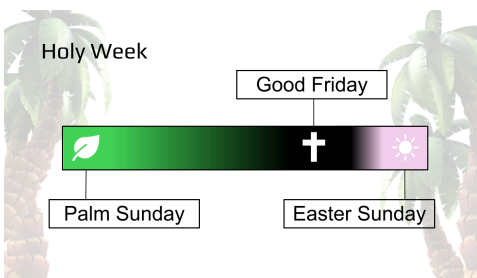
A lot of the time, I love being at the Village because I can be authentic: I have freedom even to be grumpy and tell people I'm feeling that way. But I think the invitation here is to greet people more cheerfully, remembering that Paul had a **longing** to greet others. We shouldn't take our meeting together for granted.



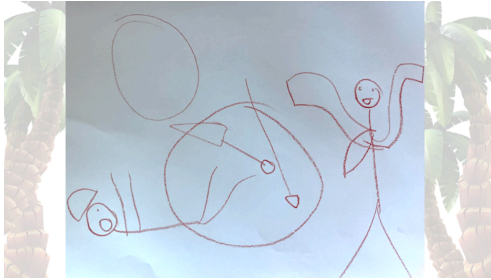
Let's talk about Good Friday: I love come-back stories. This is a photo of a computerized math drill I did in school where I arranged the horses so there would be a come-back of the horse that was behind.



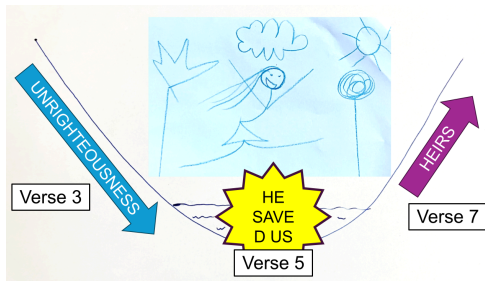
This is a graph of the 2023 Super Bowl between the Falcons and Patriots: I left early and missed the comeback because I thought a win was hopeless.



To experience Easter, we need to also think about what happened leading up to it.



This is Lucy's drawing of the guard and stone in the tomb.



The Good Friday service invites us to participate together in things like throwing the dimes like Judas did: we all crucified Jesus.