



- The false teachers that Titus was facing in Crete were **Jews**.
- “Pure” is *kithara* which literally means **clean**.
- They were saying to really be saved, it was fine to believe in Jesus but you had to keep the Old Testament **laws**: all the Jewish ceremonial and dietary practices.

The whole idea is what you do on the outside can redeem or condemn you on the **inside**.

“*Those who are corrupted*” are specifically referred to as those “who don’t believe.” Being clean, pure, right before God is the result of **faith** alone.

The point is that those who are corrupted and don’t believe cannot make themselves pure by sticking to **external** works.

Mark 7:4-7, 14-23

Verse 15

“*Minds*” means their intellect, **thoughts**, desires, purposes

“*Conscience*” means their moral **judgment**, sense of right and wrong, morality, discernment (Philippians 3:19)

If hearts are not purified properly, by faith, although our good works may shine brightly before people, they will still be **rejected** by God.

1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 5:3

People are **judged** by God by the disposition of their hearts, not by their external deeds.

Haggai 2; Isaiah 1:13-15; Amos 5:21-23

If we will have God approve our works:

- They must be according to His divine **Word**. And His Word says they must begin in a heart purified by true faith.
- They must be the works that **God** desires, not just what we want to do or find convenient to do for Him.

Verse 16

“*Claim*” is literally **confession**. They confessed that they knew God; they claimed to be Christian believers.

Isaiah 29:13

Their actions deny that God is their God. Their actions on the whole deny that their lives are **surrendered** by faith to Jesus Christ.

- Doing the right things from the wrong **heart**...
- Doing what you decide is right but leaving **undone** the good that God wants you do to and hoping God will be ok with that...
- Doing the right things but also continuing **purposefully** in the wrong things and hoping God will take what He can get...
...accomplishes nothing before God. (2 Timothy 3:5)

Their real problem is not external but **internal**. Their hearts remained corrupted because their trust was in what they **did** to make themselves pure rather than relying upon the righteousness of Christ on their behalf.

Matthew 7:21-23

Unless the foundation of one’s faith is built solidly on **Jesus Christ** crucified and raised from the dead, then it is a misplaced faith built upon a crumbling foundation.

Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9; John 3:36; Acts 4:12

The grave danger that rocks the church today is the idea that as long as you **profess** to know Christ, then all is well.

It has become common for imposters to shun **true** holiness and offer in its place a substitute to conceal their own wickedness.

People who believe solely in Jesus Christ by faith go to heaven, but ‘**good**’ people don’t go to heaven because there are no ‘good’ people except for those saved by Jesus.

Their works are **good** because they bear the stamp of God and are done in love and gratitude for so great a grace of salvation. No **merit** is attempted or gained in those works.

- 1) What are you **counting** on to save you from Hell?
- 2) **Why** do you do what you do?
- 3) What is it that you **do** and don’t do?

God’s blueprint for His church is a people purified by grace through **faith** and doing good **works** that God planned in advance for them to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)