

## **That You Not Be Unfruitful (Titus 3:8-15)**

### ***Introduction***

“How much more would a few good and fervent men effect ... than a multitude of lukewarm ones!” (Bonar, *Words to Winners of Souls*, p. 1). “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth” (Rev 3:15-16)

### **1. The Grace of God leads to Fruitfulness (v. 8)**

(Compare Titus 2:11-12). “that those who have *believed* in God should be careful to maintain *good works*” (Titus 3:8).

### **2. We must *learn* to maintain good works (v. 8b, 14).**

A productive Christian life comes *by way of a learning process*.

### **3. Foolish disputes and strivings about the law lead to Fruitlessness (v. 9)**

“Foolish and ignorant disputes ... that generate strife” is how Paul describes such teaching in 2 Tim 2:23. It amounts to “strife about words,” as Paul says in another place (2 Tim. 2:14, see 1Tim 6:4).

### **4. Foolish disputes and strivings about the law lead to Division (v. 10-11)**

Compare the Lord’s instruction as to what to do with an unrepentant sinner who will not heed the church in Matt 18:15-17. If after two warnings, someone remains stubbornly unresponsive, let him go. In a similar passage in 1Tim 6, Paul says, “From such withdraw yourself” (1Ti 6:5).

“The holy church corrects certain things with fervor, she tolerates others with meekness, and she closes her eyes on still others and bears them with reflective attention” (Gregory I).

### ***Conclusion***

The spirit of the age powerfully affects Christians also, who become careless and selfish in their Christian lives. There’s therefore an urgency from the Apostle to make the doctrine of God our Savior not just credible, but as he says, attractive.