

**Do Something**  
**Titus 3:14**

**ONE Day Service**

**August 31, 2014**

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**Text Introduction:** We have talked about this day for a long time. Today we begin to discover what God wants to do in the next phase of our ministry as a church and our discipleship as individual believers. Sometimes we have challenged you with specific action items; this time we are going to challenge you to ask God what that specific action should be in your life. At the same time, we are going to do this as a church—seeking and praying that God would bring such unity to our decision that we know beyond doubt that we have heard from God.

**Text:** And our people must also learn to devote themselves to good works for cases of urgent need, so that they will not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14 HCSB)

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. (Titus 3:14 NIV)

**Introduction:** Christian singer Matthew West has popularized in song the thought “Do Something.” In the first verse, West laments a list of ills of our world—poverty, children in slavery, and overall trouble. As we so often do, West asks, “God, why don’t you do something?”

Then, we hear God’s answer, “I did, I created you.”

We all agree that there are some things that only God can do and should do, but I hope we also agree that we are called to “Do Something.”

As Paul closed his pastoral letter to Titus, in essence, he encouraged Titus to lead the people to do something. This appeal is a repeated exhortation from Titus 3:8 which stands in contrast to the unprofitability of foolish debates.

Have you ever noticed how, if we are not careful, we will spend all of our time talking about what we are going to do instead of doing what we are supposed to do?

- “In any society the discussion circle must be balanced by the action groups.”(William Barclay, Daily Bible Study Series, 172.) Put me in the action group!
- G.K. Chesterton, “We have asked all the question which can be asked. It is time we stopped looking for questions and started looking for answers.”
- If world problems could be solved by discussion, they would have already been solved. (Barclay)

So we ought to do something!

Sermon in a Sentence: Doing something is the **call** of the Gospel, especially when focused on **critical needs**, and our doing something always **counts** and **costs**.

### **Doing Something is the Call of the Gospel**

The Example of Jesus—In Titus 3:4, we read, “But when the goodness and love for man appeared from God our Savior...” The natural result of His coming was one of goodness and love toward others. Other New Testament passages remind:

- Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:35-36)
- He went about doing good. (Acts 10:38)

The Response of Jesus’ Disciples—So because doing good is the example of Jesus, it reasons that doing good should be the natural response of His disciples. The Apostles modelled this. In the Book of Acts, the first act that we see the apostles perform is a gracious act of healing. (Acts 3) In Acts 5:12, we get a summary statement: “Many signs and wonders were being done among the people through the hands of the apostles.” Doing is a natural response from those who follow Jesus.

In fact, in the Book of James, the book of the New Testament that is believed to be the earliest of books of the New Testament era, and therefore a good guide to how the disciples closest to the time of Jesus lived, we read: “Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:17)

### **Doing Something Should be Focused on Critical Needs**

Paul indicated that the good works have a focus—critical or urgent needs. This is a repetition of a general call given in 3:8. However, in verse 13, we should note that the focus is made more specific because of the reference to the particular needs of Zenas and Apollos. Every church should be willing to ask, “What is the most critical need we can meet?”

We don’t ask “What is the church down the street doing?” That might be helpful to our search, but that is not the answer. We certainly do not ask “What can we do?” That would be too easy! In fact, we ought to be asking, “What does God want us to do that we need Him to do?” We ought to be saying, “We will fall flat on our faces without the Lord’s help.”

### **Doing Something Always Counts**

Doing good, especially when focused on critical needs will not be unfruitful. When we meet critical needs, we will not say, “We should not have done that.” We will never regret “doing something.”

### **Doing something Always Costs.**

Such is the nature of “devotion.”

## How are We Going to Go About Discovering what We Will Do?

In September we are going to Dream.

In October we are going to Discern. We are going to do this through Focus Groups that will be meeting at a variety of times.

In November we are going to Decide.

In December we are going to Declare.

In January 2015 for as long as it takes we are going to Do.

As another line of Matthew West's song goes: "If not us, then who? Right now, it's time for us to do something."

William Barclay tells about a Mr. Johnson and John Wesley. He wrote:

Dr. Johnson was one of the great talkers of all time; John Wesley was one of the great men of action of all time. They knew each other, and Johnson had only one complaint about Wesley: "John Wesley's conversation is good, but he is never at leisure. He is always obliged to go at a certain hour. This is very disagreeable to a man who loves to fold his legs and have his talk out, as I do." (Barclay, p. 171)

When I read that, I wondered, "Well, who is this Dr. Johnson?" I know the name John Wesley—along with his brother Charles, they are credited with the foundation of what is the Methodist church. So, who is Dr. Johnson? And I think that is the point. We don't know who he is—he was good at talking, but not doing.

Let's do something. Join me in this process of discovering what one thing God would call us to do in an extraordinary way.

**Conclusion:** There is one matter that you can't wait on though. Today is the day to decide to follow Christ.