

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at [twojourneys.org](http://twojourneys.org)

## **Crafted for Good Works**

### **Ephesians 2:10**

One of the biggest struggles people have in life is with a sense of purpose... of the meaning of their lives... WHY AM I ALIVE? WHY DO I LIVE EACH DAY? What gives meaning to my Mondays and my Tuesdays? What is the remedy to a terrifying sense of aimlessness and purposelessness in life

The same that led the wisest man who had ever lived up to that point—King Solomon—after a life of achievement and pleasures and power and wealth to say

***Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.***

We don't want to reach the end of our lives and think, "What was it all for? What was the purpose of my life? I achieved nothing... I wasted my life!"

PRAISE GOD! We Christians are spared from that terror... the meaningless of a life lived for nothing!

Every moment of every day is filled with purpose, crackling with energy, brimming with potential... and it all flows from the truths found in the one verse we are focusing on this morning... a verse I think about every single day:

***Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance that we should walk in them.***

The idea is powerful... God has already thought about each Christian on earth, every day, and has gone ahead of us and prepared a golden pathway of good works, beautiful spiritual works, works of eternal significance, works that he will be pleased with and will reward us for on Judgment Day, works that he will use to build a worldwide Kingdom of glory for Jesus Christ

A busy life of good works... a meaningful life of good works... a life of fruitful labor, of a rich harvests, of storing up treasure every day...

These good works are of many types: some grand and glorious and of the kind that you'll still be talking about decades later; other are as small as a word of encouragement spoken, or a silent prayer offered, or a phone call made, or a check written to support some ministry... LARGE and SMALL... God ordained them all, laid them out ahead of us and commands us all:

***“This is the way... walk in it!”***

What glorious grace from God to arrange a lifetime of good works that have eternal significance!! To be able to join God who is always at his work!

What satisfaction that comes from seeing these good works completed!

CRAFTSMANSHIP: Some time ago, I got interested in exquisitely expensive mechanical watches made by skilled craftsmen in Switzerland and Germany... one in particular, the “Grand Complication” by A. Longe and Sohne of Germany, costs 2.6 million dollars and takes a skilled watchmaker over 1 full year to make... one year on one watch!! It has 876 tiny individual parts, each of them hand crafted to fit into a wristwatch... they actually assemble it TWICE to make sure everything fits to perfection.

The watch has a perpetual calendar that will accurately display the date and time until the year 2100 without any adjustment... and the watch actually sounds a different gong at each quarter of an hour and the full hour... a different gong! Like a grandfather clock on your wrist!

There are only seven of them on planet earth. Exquisite craftsmanship!

But that is nothing compared to God’s craftsmanship in your life, and the subsequent spiritual works that God moves you to do!

God has been crafting you and shaping you and molding you and preparing you for a lifetime of eternally significant good works...

At the end of your life, he will be done crafting you... and you will look over your lifeworks on Judgment Day knowing that God worked them in you... God moved you to live a life worth living for his glory!!

Now... whenever we come to the issue of GOOD WORKS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, we have to go backwards in Ephesians 2 to understand them properly...

## I. Not Saved by Good Works

### A. Salvation from Sin Is Not by Works

***Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.***

1. Review from last time...

a. “Saved”...from what??

2. Saved from eternal condemnation at the Judgment Seat of God

***Revelation 20:11-15*** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

3. Simply put... forgiven for our sins, reconciled with a holy God... this can never be by works!!
4. We cannot earn our way out of hell and into heaven...

#### B. Cannot Emphasize this TOO MUCH

1. All over the world, people try to pay for their sins by good works
2. Paul's clear assertion here: salvation BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH
  - a. Grace = unmerited favor... something undeserved
  - b. God determines to save us CONTRARY to our works, not BECAUSE of our works
  - c. Through faith = by simple trust, by believing the words of the gospel
  - d. This faith is not "of ourselves"... it didn't originate with us
3. NOT BY WORKS... (vs. 9) Paul makes this plain
  - a. Obviously, since he has asserted our natural condition in the direst possible terms

***Ephesians 2:1-3*** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

- b. What changed all that?

***Ephesians 2:4-6*** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together

*with Christ--by grace you have been saved--<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*

4. That is the gospel of free grace... unmerited grace!!
  - a. There is no way that we sinners, dead in our sins, could have raised ourselves from the dead!
  - b. "BUT GOD"... sums up how totally from beginning to end this salvation is a work of sovereign grace... God

#### C. Salvation by Works is no Gospel at All

Charles Spurgeon, 19<sup>th</sup> century Baptist preacher, traced this out most powerfully... he said, IF WE SHOULD BEGIN TO PREACH A MESSAGE OF SALVATION BY WORKS:

1. We would be setting aside salvation by grace and mercy of God... it's ONE OR THE OTHER... and we would say there is no need for God's grace; we can save ourselves without his mercy and grace
2. We would be preaching a way in which sinners have ALREADY FAILED

If you are to be saved by works, you must begin very early: you must begin before you sin, since one sin decides the matter. But already you have commenced to break the law of God. I am not addressing persons who have yet to start upon the way, for they have started already. You are a good way on the road, one way or other; and since you began in the way of works, what a failure you have made of it already! Is there anyone here who can claim that he is already saved by works, as far as he has gone? Has anyone among you been without sin? Look at your lives; examine your consciences; observe your words, your thoughts, your imaginations, your motives; for all these come into the account. Is there anyone here that does good, and never sins? Scripture declares that "there is no one that does good, no, not one." "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way."

3. We would be preaching to many for whom it is obviously too late: imagine someone on their death bed, struggling to breathe; lungs filling with fluid; doctors have already said they expect him to die within hours; you come to speak to him about the great matters of eternity, of heaven or hell; but all you have to offer is a message of WORKS... of keeping the Law, of doing good deeds for others, for the poor and needy; of doing some good works that could pay for all the sins... but this poor souls CANNOT... the time of action is over... you have no hope to offer. But if this were the case, how could the Lord say this to the thief on the cross:

*Luke 23:42-43 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*

On what basis? On the basis of GOOD WORKS, or of SHEER GRACE and MERCY?!

Salvation by works is of no help to someone dying, breathing their last; but God has saved countless people at the last possible moment by the true gospel

The true gospel must be equally valid for ALL PEOPLE in ALL CIRCUMSTANCES... rich or poor, young or old, educated or ignorant, powerful or downtrodden, of any nation origin... or it is no gospel at all

4. [If we were to preach salvation by works] we would preach a way of salvation that is impossible because of the PERFECTION OF THE LAW:

"The law of the Lord is perfect." It condemns a thought, and even the glance of an eye, as an act of criminality. "Whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." The law of God in ten commands means much more than the bare words would imply: it deals with the whole range of moral condition, motive, and thought. Do not dream that its sweep includes only external acts: it does include externals, but, in very deed, the ten commands are spiritual, they go right through the heart, and search the inward parts of the spirit. The more a man understands the law, the more he feels condemned by it, and the less does he indulge the dream that he, as he is, shall ever be able to keep it intact

The law of God is a perfect unity; and if you break it in any one point, you break it altogether. If, in a chain of one hundred links, ninety-nine should be perfect; yet if a single link, anywhere in the chain, should be too weak for the weight placed upon it, the load will fall to the ground quite as surely as if twenty links were snapped. One breakage of the perfect law of God involves transgression against the whole of it. In order to be saved by works, there must be absolutely perfect, continuously perfect obedience to it, in thought, and word, and deed; and that obedience must be rendered cheerfully, and from the heart, for this is the summary of the first table of God's Law – "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." Can you keep that? Arrogant man, have you measured your moral strength against requirements so great, and yet so just? Up to this point, have you proved yourself equal to the task? Here is the summary of the second table of God's Law – "You

shall love your neighbor as yourself." Have you ever tried to do that—to love your neighbor *as yourself*? You have been a little kind, and sometimes generous; but the standard of loving your neighbor *as yourself*—have you ever reached to that? Has your charity been equal to your self-love? I do not believe that it has ever gone even half the way.

5. [If we were to preach salvation by works] we would take people's minds away from their terrible need for a Savior... we would set them to look inward to find the resources to save themselves instead of upward to God to save them

The sinner must be told that he must be born again, that his nature is corrupt, that this corrupt nature must be destroyed, that a new nature must be created in him: to this his mind must be turned. He must be made "a new creature" in Christ Jesus; and if I stir him up to eternal action, with a view to his salvation by it, I shall be taking his thoughts away from the inward evil of sin, which is the very essence of the matter.

6. [If we were to preach salvation by works] we would encourage pride in some people and foster despair in others
7. [If we were to preach salvation by works] we would take away the glory of Christ's work on the cross for sinners

***Galatians 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"***

Our business, my brethren, is to hold up Jesus Christ. To what end did he die, if men could be saved by their own works? It was for nothing that he should hang upon the cross if our own merits can open a way of salvation. How could the great God permit and even ordain such a death if we could be saved by our own merits? Why that bloody sweat? Why that nailing of the hands and feet? Why that, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" if of yourselves you can be saved? But it is not so. You cannot save yourselves by efforts of your own, and hence we have to come to you, shutting you up to this one thing only—that you must be saved by faith in him whom God has set forth to be a propitiation for sin. You need the love of God; you need the power of the Holy Ghost; you need to be quickened into newness of life; you need to be helped to run in the ways of righteousness: in a word, you need everything until you come to Christ, and everything that you want you will find in him, and in him alone. Within yourselves there is nothing that you want. You may search, and look, and turn the dunghill of your nature over and over again, but you will never find the jewel of salvation there. That pearl of great price is in the Lord who assumed human nature, and lived, and loved, and died, and rose again, that he might redeem men

from the fall, and all the sin consequent thereon. Oh, that you would look away from self once for all! God forbid that the preacher should ever hold up anything else before you except the crucified Savior

8. [If we were to preach salvation by works] we would be condemning people to die eternally... for NO SALVATION can ever come by our own works!!

***Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.***

BUT... though we have not been saved BY good works, this text asserts that we have been saved FOR good works

***Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance that we should walk in them.***

## II. Saved FOR Good Works

### A. Plain Doctrine

1. Our good works can never be used to pay for sins
2. BUT God in saving us creates in us a NEW NATURE and gives us the indwelling Holy Spirit
3. And then brings us to his beautiful law and moves us to obey its perfect commands for his glory, for our joy, and for the building of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ

***Ezekiel 36:25-27 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.***

### B. So Much Controversy

1. Throughout church history there has been a continual struggle on the role of works in the Christian religion
2. Before the Reformation, the Medieval Catholic church preached an elaborate gospel of religious works for the salvation of souls
  - a. They taught that sins could be forgiven by the BUYING of indulgences for silver coins... or for the doing of good works in the life of the monastery

b. Luther tried to save his soul by working himself to the bone, fasting, praying, slaving away, confessing every sin he could think of... but it just made him more and more aware of his inward corruption

c. He finally understood the true gospel:

***Romans 1:16-17 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."***

3. Luther then began preaching justification by faith alone, apart from works of the law

***Romans 4:2-5 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about-- but not before God. <sup>3</sup> What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup> However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.***

4. Other reformers joined him vigorously... they never tired of opposing the religion of works, of justification by faith alone... Spurgeon said they hit that same nail again and again and again with their hammers

5. BUT they became imbalanced

***Romans 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.***

Luther wrongly added the word "alone" in that verse to emphasize it...

***Romans 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith ALONE apart from observing the law.***

6. Luther couldn't process clear teaching from James 2

***James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?***

James clearly is assessing WHAT KIND OF FAITH saves a soul... a faith that produces NO WORKS is not genuine faith...

***James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-- and shudder.***

A faith that is merely assent to some doctrinal truth will not save... it is DEMON faith

***James 2:26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.***

A faith that produces no works of obedience is DEAD faith

7. Martin Luther couldn't process this... and ended up disparaging James completely

C. Good Works Validate Justification

1. The clear teaching of James is this: TRUE FAITH ALWAYS PRODUCES GOOD WORKS
2. By the nature of the life we are living, we can tell if we have been born again
3. Good works prove that justification has occurred... but good works do not cause justification

D. "Fruit"

1. Good works = fruit
2. Many verses teach that, if there is life there will always be fruit; if there's no fruit, there's no life

***Matthew 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.***

***Matthew 3:10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.***

***Matthew 7:16-21 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. <sup>21</sup> ¶ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.***

***Matthew 12:33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.***

***Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God***

***Hebrews 6:7-9 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. <sup>8</sup> But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. <sup>9</sup> ¶ Even though we speak like this, dear***

*friends, we are confident of better things in your case-- things that accompany salvation.*

3. Judgment Day is a time of fruit assessment:

***Romans 2:6-10*** God "will give to each person according to what he has done." <sup>7</sup> To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup> There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Jesus Christ, the Judge of all the earth, will know the state of our souls by his perfect assessment of our works... he will know us by our fruit

### III. God's Workmanship on Us... and Ahead of Us

#### A. We Are God's Workmanship: God Prepares US for the Good Works

***Ephesians 2:10*** For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works

1. God crafts us and shapes us and works on us to do the good works he wants us to do
2. Without God's workmanship in our lives, we will do none of those good works
3. This workmanship is done through Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit
  - a. He makes us a NEW CREATION in Christ by the Holy Spirit... we are born again, made new, created new... without that, no good works would be possible, for all would be corrupted by the pollution of our souls
  - b. THEN: He transforms us gradually by the renewing of our minds
    - i) He feeds us the Bible
    - ii) He pours His word into us day after day, shaping our thinking, getting us to love what he loves and hate what he hates

#### B. Union with Christ Produces the Good Works

1. Note that it says ***created IN CHRIST JESUS to do good works***
2. All our good works flow from our union with Christ
3. Clearest teaching on this is in John 15:

***John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.***

As we said earlier, if there is NO FRUIT – if there are NO GOOD WORKS – we are dead branches, even if we are attending church and living some outwardly moral existence...

But if we are alive in Christ, we are producing good fruit... God works in us, pruning us, convicting us, crafting us, so that we will be even more fruitful

GOD'S WORKMANSHIP = God's pruning, God's cultivation

4. As we abide in Christ, we do a river of good works for God's glory

Amazingly... God works both sides of the equation:

God prepares us for the good works and prepares the good works for us

Clear example: Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10

God sends an angel to a pious Roman centurion named Cornelius to get him to send messengers to Joppa for Peter, who will preach a message through which he and all his household will be saved

The next day, while the messengers are coming to Joppa, God gives Peter a vision of a large sheet with all kinds of animals on it and commands him to kill and eat... Peter answers, "Never, Lord... I have never eaten anything impure or unclean!" God tells him, "Don't call anything unclean that God has made clean." This vision happens three times... Then the messengers from Cornelius arrived, and God told Peter to go with them. Peter went, preached the gospel to Cornelius and his family and they all came to faith in Christ. Then Peter realized that the purpose of the vision was to enable a law-abiding Jew like Peter to go into a Gentile house and preach the gospel to him, knowing that the gospel has the power to purify someone's heart by faith

God was WORKING BOTH SIDES of that encounter!! Getting the good works ready for Peter, and getting Peter ready to do the good works!!

C. God's Good Works Are "Prepared in Advance"

1. The word "prepared" already implies something done ahead of time... you don't prepare after the game or after the final exam or after the concert

2. But Paul puts an additional prefix on it to show us the sovereignty and wonder of these good works... God has gone ahead of us and gotten them ready
3. How far in advance? Who can say... maybe minutes, maybe hours, maybe days... maybe even YEARS or CENTURIES
4. On the mission field, God may get a specific tribe ready for the gospel by orchestrating certain tribal traditions that will enable the missionary to explain the gospel even many generations later
  - a. Don Richardson, *Peace Child*... the Sawi people of Irian Jaya had a tradition by which two warring tribes could guarantee peace between them if the son of each tribe's chief were swapped... the chief would give his son to bring about reconciliation; as long as the child lives, peace between the tribes is guaranteed
  - b. Richardson used this concept to preach the gospel to the Sawi; the tribe eventually trusts Christ as a result of this understanding
  - c. From this experience, Richardson developed a theory of REDEMPTIVE ANALOGIES, aspects of every tribe or nation's culture that are built-in pictures of the gospel... some of them have been in the culture for centuries
  - d. God goes ahead of the gospel, preparing the good works in advance for us to walk in them
5. Or it could be as simple as the providential orchestration of who you sit next to on an airplane... or who your roommate is in college... or who moves in next door... God has been at work in their lives in some amazing ways, and God sets up good works for you to do IN ADVANCE

When I was a missionary in Japan, I noted with some level of pain that, whenever I rode the train from Takamastu to Tokushima, Japanese people would not choose the seat next to me... even if the train was completely full, they would try another car to see if it had empty seats rather than sit next to me... but one day, a quiet college student came and asked in decent English if he could sit next to me... I was so surprised... we ended up having a great conversation about the gospel, about faith in Christ. It turns out he had a Christian mother and had been struggling with Christianity and hoped I would be able to talk with him. He eventually came to faith in Christ! We met together many times to study the bible. He said to me, "I think it was the work of God in my life that I sat next to you on the train. I am usually a very shy person."

6. Every day, all over the world, God is orchestrating seemingly “chance” things to allow his servants to do the good works he’s ordained in advance for them to do

#### IV. Walking Daily in a Pathway of Good Works

##### A. “That We Should Walk in Them”

1. NIV has merely God prepared in advance “for us to do”
2. Greek is literally “in order that in them we should WALK”

##### B. The Verb “Walk” Implies a Daily Lifestyle

##### C. No Days Off... No Hours Off... No Wasted Time

##### D. Redeeming the Time

*<sup>KJV</sup> Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

#### V. What Kind of Good Works?

Paul doesn’t say here what kinds of good works he has in mind... but they would be any of the works of the Christian life... any command he gives in any of his letters

Later in this epistle: Ephesians 4: he’ll talk about the works of SPIRITUAL GIFTS... special abilities apportioned to each Christian that enable them to serve the Body of Christ; he’ll also talk about various moral issues like putting off the old self and being made new in the attitude of your minds, and putting on the new self IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS... then he’ll move to speaking truthfully, not lying; not being angry, working hard with your hands; speaking only what is helpful; getting rid of anger and all sexual immorality; being kind and compassionate, forgiving people...

He’ll also talk about “the fruit of the light” in all goodness, righteousness, truth” finding out what pleases the Lord... Christian marriage – husbands and wives; Christian parenting; the master slave relationship – spiritual warfare

So... perhaps two major categories: Good works of the INTERNAL JOURNEY of sanctification; good works of the EXTERNAL JOURNEY of service and missions

## Works of sanctification and works of service

### A. Works of Sanctification

1. God has ordained that Christians should GROW IN GRACE and in the knowledge of Christ
2. So he ordains that we present our bodies to God as living sacrifices every day
3. God has ordained that you feed your soul by the Word of God and by prayer every day
4. God has prepared this in advance by bible translators that have labored for years to get you an English bible you can read; he has prepared in advance websites with Bible reading programs you can follow; or prayer guides you can use
5. God also has prepared in advance works of holiness for you to do... teaching you to put sin to death by the Spirit... there are things you have to do to put sin to death... you have the suffering and the struggling of saying NO to a temptation and putting it to death by the Spirit
6. God also has prepared this works in advance by you coming to church to grow in the Christian life... and by being disciplined by a spiritual mentor who holds you accountable to be holy... GOOD WORKS of sanctification for you to do
7. How's your PRAYER LIFE? God has prepared in advance some good works of prayer for you to walk in... to be more dedicated to prayer than ever before... to PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
8. You will not grow in holiness without good works of personal discipline

***Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence-- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.***

### B. Works of Service

1. Ministry to other Christians
  - a. Spiritual gifts
    - i) God prepares you in advance for the works by gifting you and training you to do that ministry
    - ii) We'll learn more when we get to Ephesians 4

- b. Sacrificial giving: God prepares opportunities in advance for us to walk in... chances to give money for the Kingdom of God
- c. Prayer: God prepares in advance chances for us to pray for other Christians... we hear of needs, people hurting
- d. Ministry of the word
- e. Ministries of mercy to Christians: God prepares in advance good works of mercy, like visiting people in the hospital, praying for people in their presence, speaking words of encouragement to people who are suffering; organizing work days for widows or the elderly; going to funerals to support the grieving; cooking meals for families that are sick or have a new baby
- f. Works of love: words of encouragement

## 2. Mission to non-Christians

### C. Assess Yourself

1. Do you understand the difference between “saved by good works” and “saved to do good works?”
2. Is your life “rich in good works”?

*ESV* **1 Timothy 6:18** *They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share*

3. Do you feel a sense of excitement about God crafting you to do a specific array of good works in your lifetime that will enrich your daily life? Do you look on every day as unique in terms of God going ahead of you, preparing good works for you to do?

Illus. Harold Abrahams in “Chariots of Fire” ... 100 meters... dark on each side

OR... stepping across a mountain river from rock to rock... like going from good work to good work

4. Are you doing the daily good works of holiness God has for you? Quiet times... putting sin to death by the Spirit... prayer... Bible intake... worship
5. Are you using your spiritual gifts? Do you have a regular ministry based on your spiritual gifts at FBC?
6. Are you doing good works of evangelism and missions?
- 7.

D.