

**Romans 14; Lord's Day 33**  
**WHAT ARE GOOD WORKS?**

- I. Their right source.
  - A. Good works must proceed out of faith. "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23; also Hebrews 11:6).
  - B. God's first work in us is regeneration - spiritually changing the heart by uniting us to Christ (faith).
    - 1. Faith is God's gift which binds us spiritually to Christ (John 15:1-8).
    - 2. Christ bears fruit through us, and without Him we can do nothing good (John 15:1-5).
  - C. God's work of grace in us produces the life of new obedience.
- II. The right standard for good works is God's law.
  - A. The law of God is the only objective standard for identifying good works. (I John 3:4; I Sam. 15:22; Heb. 13:21).
  - B. This excludes all other standards (Deut. 12:32; Numbers 15:39).
  - C. The principle behind this criterion is two-fold:
    - 1. One, God created all and controls all the absolute monarch of the universe.
    - 2. Two, God gives instructions in order to establish a personal link between Himself and His subjects.
  - D. In the law God demands the heart: His law is fulfilled only with love (Romans 13:10-12; Matt. 22:37-39).
- III. All good works must have the correct goal or purpose of the glory of God.
  - A. Man's works all have a purpose or an end.
  - B. To be good a work must have as its goal the glory of God.
    - 1. God created all things in order that they might radiate His glory (Rev. 4:11).
    - 2. God created man to be consciously declaring and consciously reflecting His glory.