

CONCLUSION:

1. We have the responsibility to encourage one another to good works **Heb 10:23-24**

2. We are debtors of Grace, required to pay back with Grace Mt 10:8

3. Good works have the reward of Grace

Pr 19:17 He who is gracious to a poor man **lends** to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.

That is an amazing statement about God's Grace! He will reward us, for His own work in us. Man, what a motivation to passionately pursue good works, "so that men may see them, and glorify our Father who is in heaven"

AMEN!

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

"...HAVING BEEN BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES & PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE..."
EPHESIANS 2:20

AUGUST 31, 2008

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SUNDAY:
9:30 AM * SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM * MORNING WORSHIP
6:00 PM * EVENING WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY:
7:00 PM * PRAYER MEETING

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The Priority of the Glory of God #9 In our good works (2)

Introduction: thesis - a true disciple of Christ, will be inevitably engaged in good works.

Review: from the passage in Mt. 5:13-16 we looked at

- The Christian's Identification as Salt and light
- The Christian's Mission to preserve / prevent from corruption and to illumine the path to righteousness

I – Good works must be Deliberate

II - Good works must be Tangible

III – Good works must have one single purpose
"So that they may glorify your Father in heaven"

This morning we will answer two questions about good works and the thesis that a disciple of Christ must be inevitably engaged in them. **Why? & What are those good works?**

Text: Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1. **God's workmanship** – Der. Poem -

- a. God's craftsmanship This has nothing to do with natural abilities or inclinations. **I Co 4:7**
- b. Created in Christ Jesus: "in" points to the new creation in Christ. **2 Co 5:17.** and to our union with Christ
- c. This results in Evangelical Obedience: not to merit salvation but to display God's work in us. Illustration **Zaccheus Lk 19:8-9**

2. **Created with a purpose:** For good works **Is 43:7** comp **Mt. 5:19**

3. **For good works that God prepared beforehand**

- a. Good works are Ineludible: they were prepared before hand
Pro + Hetoimazo: to "level the road and make it passable before the coming of a king"
- b. Good works bear the moral excellence of their author:

- c. This text presents the balanced tension between *God's Sovereignty* and *Man's Responsibility*.

Wrap-up: Good works are ineludible. God prepared them beforehand! Comp. **Tit 2:11-14** & **Tit 3:8** This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds.

Transition: from the "why" to the "What": Our problem as Evangelical Christians does not lie in understanding the doctrine of good works in its theological context, but in engaging in good works.

That's why the second question I want to answer is:

II - What are these "good works"?

a) Good works are those that alleviate the pain or enhance the comfort & joy of others - Jn 10:32 – Ex: The Lord Jesus

b) Good works are directed to meet material needs Acts 9:36-ff

- Dorcas' deeds were wrapped in charity and kindness.
- Dorcas' good works favored those who were nearest her. Illust.: Elijah in Zarepta.
- Dorcas' good works were done continually.
- They were done according to Dorcas' abilities and gifts
She did what she could, with what she knew... she sowed tunics
- Dorcas' good works were tangible and outlived her.

c) Good works are those that provide relief and refreshment I Ti 5:9-10 Ex: the godly widows at the church in Ephesus

- Their good works were exercised in the context of her domestic duties. Comp **Tit 2:5**
- They were known for their devotion to good works
- Are good works an important facet of the church life? **Comp. Tit 3:14** And let our *people* also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

d) Good works imply sharing generously from our possessions
I Ti 6:17-19