

# DEVO

## THE NECESSITY OF GOOD WORKS

### Grace, Faith and Good Works

**Eph 2:8-10** - *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Nothing we can do will earn us our salvation – our right to be with God in eternity. Nothing! Only His grace, extended to us, like the scepter of an ancient King, will let us approach His throne and be accepted. (Esther 4:11) Or like a life preserver thrown to a drowning man.

YET! He says we were **made** to do good works, and we **must!** That's what this lesson is about, the **necessity** of our good works. Grace? Faith? Good Works? Which is it? Consider:

- \_ How do we obtain the favor of the King?
- \_ How do we reach for that scepter of grace?
- \_ How do we grasp it and let it bring us to the King?
- \_ What keeps the King from flinging us away?

Consider the Parable of wedding feast:

**Matthew 22:11-14** - *And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.*

In V9 the king bid ALL to come to the marriage. God extends his grace to all. We **show** him we really want it by what we wear.

**1 Timothy 2:9,10** - *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; <sup>10</sup>But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

**v Good works are how we clothe ourselves in a manner pleasing to the King – our God and obtain his favor.**

**Col 1:10,11** - *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

Can we be **worthy**; worth something to Him? YES!

**1 Peter 3:4** *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*

Can we **please Him totally**? YES! “all pleasing”

How? By bearing fruit in good works.

Why do we plant flowers or grow trees? For their beauty, fragrance or fruit.

By God's grace, Jesus came to this world to redeem us, to buy us back from death, the death of being separated from our Father by our sins. What's **our** part in that?

Does Jesus **expect** anything of us?

**Titus 2:14** - *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

One part is for us to get purified and stay pure. Jesus came to **purify us!** What remains after that purification, what is the result? Good works! What part did He purify? Our **mind**, the spiritual **eternal** part of us, zealous of good works - **wanting** to do them.

**v By good works we can fulfill God's expectations of us.**

How did he make us zealous of good works? Some direct operation?

No – again our participation is essential!

**2 Cor 5:14,15** *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*

**We must see Christ's love so it will constrain us – bend us, to his will.**

**If it doesn't? No good works – no love.**

**Titus 3:14** – *And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.*

Doing what God wants us to do makes us fruitful. And, if we are **not** fruitful ...

**Matt 3:10** - *And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

If unfruitful – cut down and cast into fire.

But conversely, if we are bearing fruit we will stand.

**John 15:2** *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

When we do a good job at work, or home, we like to be patted on the back.

But, is that **why** we're trying to do good works? Just for a pat on the back? No!

**Matt 5:16** - *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

**v By our good works, the Father is glorified and others see and come to Him.**

Why will they glorify the father?

Because the good we do is that **shown** to us by God.

The good we do is **defined** by God – He sets the bar.

So then, we are a reflection of Him. People should see Him, in us!

And, our **strength** to do these works comes from God – remember, Col 1:11?

It **all** comes from Him and rightly then the glory belongs to Him. It is **not** ours.

How do we accept God's grace, His invitation? By calling him "Father".

But, if we call him Father, are we **acting** as His children.

**John 8:39** - *They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would **do** the works of Abraham.*

The Pharisees claimed they were the children of Abraham, but didn't act like it.

That put the lie to them. Will it put the lie to us?

Good comes from God, not us.

Children do as they've seen their father do.

Who do we **look to** as our father? Where is our mind?

Is our mind on this world, whose god is Satan? (**2 Cor 4:4**)

Or, is our mind on the God of righteousness in Heaven?

Whose children are we **acting** like?

Who was another famous child of God?

Jesus of course. How did he act – "Must be about my Father's business".

And we are his disciples. Remember: he left example... (**1 Pet 2:21**)

**Luke 6:40** - *The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.*

**V By good works we declare that we are Jesus disciples.**

**John 15:8** *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

**John 13:35** *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Disciples of Jesus – wanting and striving to be like him.

Like Jesus in being merciful, and kind and faithful and forbearing and long suffering and obedient – in being Loving

Not because we **have** to. Not because Jesus did it,

But because we **want** to – as Jesus wanted to.

**Philippians 2:5** - *Let this mind be in you which also was in Christ Jesus.*

And this brings us right back to the purpose of this lesson.

If we have the **mind** of Christ, what will we be **doing**? The things He did of course.

Jesus talked often of reaping and sowing.  
Was he giving an agricultural lesson?  
What do sowing and reaping have to do with us today?

**Romans 2:6-11** - *Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

Patient continuance in **well doing** – Good works? You bet!  
Patient? Maybe not seeing immediate result.  
Continuance – continuing – keep on keeping on doing good works!

And again, some reasons why!

**Hebrews 13:16** - *But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

v Remember, God is faithful. He knows what we do, and why!

**Hebrews 6:10** - *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, 1/2/2011 am