

What are 'Good Works'?

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.

If we were created for good works and the works were prepared by God, it would seem important to know what they are.

Good Works are a part of being worthy

Colossians 1:9 – 12 ...that you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

One of the purposes of the assembly is to motivate one another to good deeds.

Hebrews 10:23 – 25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

Good works are part of the wisdom from above

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good works, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

How do we obtain the mindset for good works?

2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master prepared, for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16 – 17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Review: the place and purpose of good works

- Part of our reason for being
- Part of being worthy
- Partly motivated in the assembly
- Part of wisdom from above
- Partly prepared by cleansing ourselves
- Partly prepared by the Scriptures

**What examples of good works
are given in the Scriptures?**

Opinion:

We should be sure we have covered the types of good works found in the Scriptures before we pursue other activities as good works. Or, we should not skip the good works described in the Scriptures in favor of others that we define as good works.

**Good work:
developing certain personality traits
and abstaining from evil**

1 Peter 2:11 – 20 abstain from lust, submit to the government, submit to masters, bear injustice (also Ephesians 6:7 – 8)

1 Peter 3:8 – 12 be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, humble; bless, speak plainly, seek peace, make a defense for faith

**Good work:
leading, teaching, serving**

1 Timothy 3:1 Being an elder

1 Peter 4:10 – 11 Teaching and serving
(Note: by the strength which God supplies)

**Good work:
sharing with the poor**

James 1:27 Visit widows and orphans

James 2:15 Feed and house poor brethren

Hebrews 13:16 Sharing

Hebrews 13:2 – 3 Strangers and prisoners

1 Timothy 6:18 Sharing

Ephesians 4:28 Sharing

Galatians 6:10 Especially the faithful

**Good work:
supporting teachers**

3 John 5 – 11 Housing teachers and sending them on their way with money

Titus 3:13 – 14 Sending teachers on their way with money

Galatians 6:6 Supporting local teachers

**Good works are expensive,
so God has promised the means**

Hebrews 13:20 – 21 Paul prayed that God equip us in every good thing.

2 Corinthians 9:8 “God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good thing.”

**Good works:
a benchmark**

Paul was stunned by the liberality of the Macedonians (2 Co 8:1 – 5). As a Jew, Paul was accustomed to the tithe. This must have been significantly more.

Acts 2:45 and 4:34 describe extreme giving.

**Good works:
self-examination**

1040 Schedule A

Widows

Orphans

“The poor”

The household of faith

Teachers

Leaders

Allocation of time

Serving

Beyond our ability

By God’s power