

“O the Things We May Do”

Ephesians 2:4-10

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- “Think not the beautiful doings of thy soul shall perish unremembered. They abide with thee forever, and alone the good thou doest nobly, truth and love approve. Each pure and gentle deed of mercy brings an honest recompense, and from it looms that sovereign knowledge of thy duty done, a joy beyond all dignities of earth.”

Ephesians 2:4-10

- “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

“O the Things We May Do”

- Ecc. 11:1 - “Cast your bread upon the waters,
For you will find it after many days.”
- “How far that little candle throws his beams!
So shines a good deed in a weary world.”
(William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice)

What Kinds Of Things Can We Do?

- Many believe that for a deed to have a profound and powerful effect, it must be a great and glorious work.
- Matt. 10:42 - “And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”
- Prov. 15:23 - “A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”
- Isa. 50:4 - “The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary...”

What Kinds Of Things Can We Do?

- Soup Ministers
- Christian Home Care
- Prayer Warriors

The Role Of Good Works

- Good works are not the source of our salvation - Eph. 2:8-9
- Good works are the evidentiary product of our salvation - Eph. 2:10
- Everyone faithful to Christ will walk in good works - Titus 2:14

The Role Of Good Works

- One can do good works and still be lost
 - Matt. 7:22-23 - “Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? 23 And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”
 - Acts 10:2 - (Cornelius) “a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.”
 - Acts 11:14 - (Angel of God to Cornelius) “who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved”

God Created Us In Christ To Walk In Good Works

- Good works are defined by God
 - Heb. 13:21 - (God will) “make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”
- He has already determined what they will be
 - Eph. 2:10 - “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

God Created Us In Christ To Walk In Good Works

- He has made them clear to us
 - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
- He has made it clear where we are to begin
 - John 6:28-29 - “Then they said to Him, What shall we do, that we may work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

God Created Us In Christ To Walk In Good Works

- Good works must be evident and visible
 - 1Tim. 5:25 - “Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.”
- To God
 - Matt. 6:4 - “...your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

God Created Us In Christ To Walk In Good Works

- To people
 - Matt. 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”
 - 1Peter 2:12 - “Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

God Created Us In Christ To Walk In Good Works

- Good works are influential
 - Matt. 5:13-14 - “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”
 - 1Cor. 9:22 - “To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”

God Created Us In Christ To Walk In Good Works

- Good works are not pointless
 - 1Cor. 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
- By them, God is accomplishing His work in this world - Heb. 13:21

God Created Us In Christ To Walk In Good Works

- Rest comes to those who labor now
 - Rev. 14:13 - “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”
 - Heb. 4:10 - “For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.”

To Walk In Good Works, We Must Be:

- Consistent in our practice of good works
 - Titus 2:7 - “...in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works...”
 - Phil. 3:17 - “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”
 - 1Tim. 4:12 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

To Walk In Good Works, We Must Be:

- Zealous in good works
 - Titus 2:14 - “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”
 - Heb. 10:24 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”

To Walk In Good Works, We Must Be:

- Ready for every good work
 - Titus 3:1 - “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work”
 - Gal. 6:10 - “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

To Walk In Good Works, We Must Be:

- Full of good works
 - Acts 9:36, 39 - “At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did... 39 ...And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.”

“O the Things We May Do”

- “While you are waiting for good things to happen to you, you can do good things for other people. You don't do kind deeds expecting kindness in return. You don't do kind deeds because you deem the recipient worthy. You do kind deeds because it's who you are, and because you understand the powerful difference your gentle hand makes in this dreary world. We hunger after the sweet nectar of happiness without understanding that it is harvested from the flowering field of good deeds.” (Richelle E. Goodrich)