

# **The Doctrine of Good Works**

## **Part One**

### **The Biblical Basis for Good Works**

#### **2 Timothy 3:16, 17**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NKJV)

- I. The Nature of Scripture.
  - A. What is Inspiration?
  - B. What is Profitability?
    - 1. For Teaching.
    - 2. For Proof.
    - 3. For Correction.
    - 4. For Child Discipline in Righteousness.
- II. The Purpose for Inspired and Profitable Scripture.
  - A. Who is “The Man of God?”
  - B. What is the Meaning of “Complete?”
  - C. What is the Meaning of “Thoroughly Equipped?”
  - D. What is the Meaning of “Every Good Work?”

# The Doctrine of Good Works

## Part Two

### The Soteriological Basis for Good Works

#### Ephesians 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)

- I. A Correct Understanding of the Production of Salvation is Necessary to Understand Good Works (Ephesians 2:4-7)
  - A. A Dead Man cannot do Good Works.
  - B. God made Us Alive When We were Dead.
  - C. We had Nothing to Do with Providing Salvation (...by grace you have been saved...).
  - D. We had Nothing to Do with Our Present Position before God.
  - E. We will have Nothing to Do with God's Future Age Program.
- II. A Correct Understanding of the Means of Salvation is Necessary to Understand Good Works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
  - A. Salvation is "...by grace through faith..."
  - B. Faith is not a Production of the Human Being, Else one could Boast.
    1. It is "not of yourselves."
    2. It is "a gift of God."
    3. It is "not of Works."
- III. A Correct Understanding of Salvation Implies that Good Works have their Source in God (Ephesians 2:10).
  - A. We are God's Workmanship.
  - B. We were Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works.
    1. God Previously Prepared Good Works.
    2. The Purpose for God's Preparation was for the Christian Walk.

# **The Doctrine of Good Works**

## **Part Three**

### **The Eternal Covenant and Good Works**

#### **Hebrews 13:20-21**

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, <sup>21</sup> 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.

- I. God the Father Described
  - A. He is the God of Peace (See 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Galatians 5:22).
  - B. He Brought Our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd, from the Dead (See Romans 8:11).
- II. Good Works Produced
  - A. God the Father Makes the Believer Fit.
    1. His means is through the blood of the eternal covenant.
      - a. This is not the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31.
      - b. This covenant is the basis for not applying the Mosaic Covenant (Hebrews 10:29).
      - c. This New Covenant is related to the heavenly program rather than the earthly (Hebrews 12:22-24).
    2. His objective is in the area of good works.
    3. His goal is for the Christian to perform His desirous will.
  - B. God the Father Works in the Believer.
    1. His work in the Christian is well pleasing in His sight.
    2. His work in the Christian is through Jesus Christ.
    3. His work in the Christian is intended to present Christ accurately forever and ever.

# **The Doctrine of Good Works**

## **Part Four**

### **The Spiritual Basis for Good Works**

#### **Ephesians 4:1-3; 5:18-21**

**Ephesians 4:1-3** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Ephesians 5:18-21** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another in the fear of God.

- I. Obedience to God is the Result of Correct Application of Bible Truth (Ephesians 4:1ff).
  - A. Christians are to walk worthy of their calling.
  - B. The Christian walk begins with having a right attitude toward other Christians.
    1. Walk in all lowliness.
    2. Walk in all meekness.
    3. Walk with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.
    4. Walk endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- II. Obedience to God is Predicated on Being Filled by the Spirit.
  - A. The Contrast with Being Drunk.
  - B. The Requirement of Filling.
  - C. The Response to Filling.
    1. Speaking.
    2. Singing and Making Melody.
    3. Giving Thanks.
    4. Submitting.
  - D. The Abilities Resulting from Filling (Ephesians 5-6).

# The Doctrine of Good Works

## Part Five

### The Definition and Application of Good Works

#### I. Definition

Good works are those sacrificial activities performed graciously by God through the Spirit-controlled, biblically aware believer which He previously prepared. As a result, from the divine perspective, it is not possible for anyone to receive credit for good works except God Himself.

**Philippians 2:12-13** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

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

**Hebrews 13:20-21** Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, <sup>21</sup> 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.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; in order that you, always having all sufficiency in all ways, may abound unto every good work...

**2 Timothy 2:21** Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

#### II. Application

- A. Throughout the New Testament, the writers encouraged maturing believers to perform that which was good.
  1. **Ephesians 4:28** Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
  2. **Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
  3. **1 Thessalonians 5:15** See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
  4. **Titus 3:1** Put them in mind to be in subjection to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be prepared unto every good work,
  5. **Titus 3:8** This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

## The Doctrine of Good Works

6. **1 Peter 3:11** Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.
  7. **3 John 11** Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.
  8. **Titus 3:14** And let our *people* also learn to maintain good works, to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.
- B. Throughout the New Testament, the writers gave examples of good works.
1. **1 Timothy 3:1** Faithful is the saying, If someone is eager for the position of an overseer, he desires a good work.
  2. **1 Timothy 5:9-10** Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.
  3. **Titus 2:6-8** Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
  4. **Titus 3:1-2** Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.