

CHRISTIANS ARE TO DO GOOD WORKS

Hebrews 10:24-25

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: One of the things expected from a Christian is that he/she would be involved in doing "good works." Why would a Christian be concerned about doing "good works?" Is it a part of his/her new nature? Is it in order to receive some sort of benefit from God? What are "good works?" To whom are "good works" to be done?

I. CHRISTIANS ARE TO DO "GOOD WORKS"

1. What is the purpose of doing "good works?"
 - Not to "earn" or "buy" one's way into heaven.
 - The Christian is saved by grace, not by his/her works - Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7
 - The Christian has been re-born, re-created in Jesus Christ to do good works - Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11-14; 3:1, 8, 14
2. Why does a Christian need to do "good works?"
 - Good works bring glory to God - Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:11-12
 - Good works can prepare unbelievers to become more receptive to hearing the Gospel - 1 Peter 2:12, 3:1-2
 - Good works demonstrate the real, true nature of the Christian's faith - James 2:14-17
 - Good works are necessary if one is to be like Jesus - Luke 6:46; Acts 10:38

II. WHAT "GOOD WORKS" CAN A CHRISTIAN DO?

1. Good works related to "spiritual" nature:
 - Telling others about God's grace, about the Gospel message - 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - Not every one can be a preacher or teacher - 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; James 3:1-2
 - Every one can share with others the wonderful grace found in Jesus Christ.
 - Encouraging other Christians - Hebrews 3:12-13
 - Be like Philemon or Stephanus as described in - Philemon 7; 1 Corinthians 16:15-18
 - By sending cards, making calls, visiting, Bible studies, etc.
 - By helping to restore weak fellow Christians - Galatians 6:1-2
 - Such as Barnabas who helped Mark so much
 - James 5:19-20 shows how important this can be.
2. Good works related to "physical" nature:
 - Jesus did more than just spiritual works - Luke 7:22
 - Jesus did not expect His disciples to limit their good works to just spiritual works.
 - Matthew 10:7-8; 25:34-40
 - Some may be gifted in abilities and opportunities to "teach" so others are gifted to "serve" in areas of physical service - Romans 12:3-8
 - Such as giving
 - Such as showing mercy
 - Acts 9:36-39

CONCLUSION:

1. No matter how one serves the Lord, "good works" are a sign/mark of being like Jesus - James 1:27
2. Doing "good works" is a key to spiritual blessings and happiness - James 1:25; Acts 20:35
3. **"...Those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works..."** Titus 3:8
4. Christian, how are YOU at doing "Good Works?"