

GOOD WORKS & THE EXPECTATION OF REWARDS

You and I will have to stand before *the Judgment Seat of Christ* in order that He may give honour, promotion, and reward according to the way we lived our lives on earth AFTER we were saved by His grace. It is therefore very important for us to live and serve Him and His Church in ways that He accepts, that are pleasing in His sight. The reality of the *Believers' Judgement* – that we will be richly and justly rewarded by Christ – should motivate us to be full of good works.

2 Cor. 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

I am fascinated by the God-given wisdom of Solomon expressed in his book of Ecclesiastes. He covers a range of relevant and practical issues of life and is so God-centred. Look for instance on his statement of God's judgement on the way we live our lives.

Eccl. 12:14

For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

God Will Reward us Openly and Impartially

Mt. 6:1-4

¹“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

1 Pet. 1:17

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

Good Works are the Hallmark of True Christians

It is well said that Christians who talk a lot in testimony and are hyper active in Christian social gatherings or take enthusiastic part in public activities may be indulging in self-glory for to be seen and noticed by people – the praise of men. Real good works are a dynamic outflow of true regeneration. Those who are saved spontaneously do the works God has fore-ordained for them and, by grace, made them aware that they were saved to serve.

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.

2 Cor. 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Jms. 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

Those involved in Church ministries are especially warned that they will be evaluated for how they work in the building up of the people in God's Church.

1 Cor. 3:10-15

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Leaders are to particularly lead in doing good works – they must be a *pattern* of good works.

Tit. 2:7.

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,

Across the pages of the New Testament are enough exhortations for true Christians to be zealous and practical in doing good works.

Gal. 6:9-10

⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2 Thess. 3:13

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

Good works must not tire us out nor should we give up doing it because beneficiaries take advantage or are ungrateful. There will be results for the Kingdom of God so seize opportunities to engage in good works. You don't need to search for opportunities because they are everywhere. We are to care for all people but our first priority is to the family of God.

Those of you who are wealthy – each time you have a hike in your incomes whether by promotions, bonuses and awards, change of job or career, largesse, or other means – God mandates you to be *rich* in good works.

1 Tim. 6:17-18

¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

In fact, all true believers are expected to be zealous and ready for every good work.

Tit. 2:14.

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Tit. 3:1, 8, 14

¹Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work ...

⁸The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

¹⁴And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

Heb. 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The local church gatherings must also recognise the important place for stirring each other for good works it has. This is God's plan for the local church.

Heb. 10:24

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works ...

The Evangelistic Impact of Good Works

Mt. 5:14-16

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

It is simple common sense that if there is light it will shine – it does not need to be made to shine. The shining light is visible. Similarly if you are a Christian then your good works will be part of your daily being and people will see the good that you do because Christ is in you.

In the same way if true Christians will live for what is good and in all good behaviour and good deeds even our worst enemies will be impacted by that kind of righteous life.

1 Pet. 3:13-17

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Conclusion

As we live in the light of *The Judgment Seat of Christ*, not in anxiety but with great anticipation of rewards, we will be zealous for living lives full of good works that glorify our Father in heaven.

