

‘Good Works’ Study Scripture & questions

By Wayne R. Schmidt

During this study, please apply concentrated effort in answering the questions. New learning often requires some struggle in thought. If in a group, share with each other your views knowing they are your own, and that it is okay if it's different. Practice love, patience, kindness, and gentleness with each other. God's good involves affection. Share with sincere truth. Let's be careful not to seek approval from others or saying what we think other people want to hear. If the scripture challenges your current understanding, stay with it a while applying a willing mindset to learn something new. Avoid the temptation to keep on moving or find a distraction. Let perseverance and struggle help you to find the truth.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Do you read scripture for reproof of yourself, correction, and instruction in righteousness? Inward Authority studies are focused on doing just that.

Did you know the Bible teaches that we ought to be doing good works? And to do good works, wouldn't we need to learn and practice them? And wouldn't learning and practicing require a continued focused effort to walk in them? But before we learn and practice them, we must first become convinced we ought to do them.

Please take to heart and deep into your mind the information from the scripture in this study. Set aside any understanding that is different from scripture. See the Bible explicitly for what it says. Let it settle into your being and pray for guidance to learn the truth.

1. Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

What is your light? What light are you letting shine before others?

What good works are they seeing from you that helps others glorify God?

How does your good works compare to others in the Bible?

Review the attachment on good and evil. The attachment is a summary from a comprehensive concordance study in the Bible on good and evil. It may help to refer to it for this study. Think about/discuss the ideas listed on the attachment and identify which of them Jesus shined before others.

What does Jesus teach us to follow? How important is it to set our thoughts upon God's good and to grow in it?

2. John 10:32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

What good works is Jesus talking about? Why are people wanting to stone Jesus? Did Jesus say things that upset people? Are we to be like that?

3. Acts 9:36 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.

Did you know that women can do good works? Are good works different for women than men? If yes, how so? If no, why not? How have you been charitable?

4. Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Authorities generally appreciate those who are honest with integrity and that care for others. Law enforcement often appreciates law abiding citizens. Doing good works involves staying within the law.

How might abiding by the law save us from worry or fear? Are there areas we could improve, for example, are we ever driving above the speed limit, paying our taxes, or stealing from work? When we break the law, how might that affect our conscience, peace, worry, fear, etc.?

5. 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.

According to this verse, the reason we are created in Christ Jesus is, “for good works.” It also says, “we should walk in them.”

How are we walking in good works? How can we do it better? How can we set our minds and hearts more to do good works?

What good works can we “walk in” better? (See attachment)
How might we keep this a priority and a focus?

6. 1 Timothy 5:24-25 Some men’s sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

It says, “sins are clearly evident” and “good works of some are clearly evident.”

Are sins and good works evident to you? Would studying them more often be helpful? Do you have a group that talks about these clearly? How might you react if others discussed sins and corrections with good works? Are you advocating for such discussions? Why or why not?

7. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

How might the love of money interfere with good works? How might sharing and giving be good works? What happens to us inwardly when we share with others? What might happen to others inwardly when we share with them? (See attachment for help)

8. Titus 2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

Are we setting out to show others good works in all things? Are we always out to build integrity, reverence, and incorruptibility or at least to grow that way? How so or why not?

9. 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.

If we are freed from lawless deeds, would we still practice them? What might purifying be like in thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions?

The previous verse describes the character of His people as “zealous for good works?” What might a person zealous for good works be like? How much thought and time do you think they might apply toward growth in good works?

10. 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.

Do you believe in God? How are you being careful to maintain good works? Could you be more careful? How so or why not?

11. Titus 3:14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

How might we learn to maintain good works? Before maintaining good works, wouldn't we first need to do them well? How could we maintain something we are not doing? And if we are not doing them well, wouldn't we maintain a poor doing of them?

What is the difference between fruitful and unfruitful in thought, word, and deed?

12. Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

How might we “stir up love and good works.” What would that be like in thought, word, and deed?

13. 1 Peter 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.

What is honorable conduct? How is honorable conduct related to good works? What character traits might be part of honorable conduct?

How might honorable conduct help others to glorify God?

Hopefully, this study brings to light the need for teaching, demonstrating, and helping others learn, practice, develop, and train in good works, righteousness, and conduct. Our inward development toward love and peace can impact others and ourselves. We can grow inwardly and outwardly with good works.

Good & Evil Quick Reference

Good

1. Truth, No partiality, Heeding the word
2. Humble, Serving, Contrite,
3. Seeking good, Knowing good, Abhor evil, Repentance
4. Peace, Love, Compassion, Mercy
5. Charitable deeds, Lending
6. Zeal, Perseverance, Labor
7. Forgiveness, Caring for enemies, Not to burden
8. Generosity, Sharing, Giving
9. Building sincere love with others

Evil

1. Deceit, False lips, Flattery, Hypocrisy
2. Pride, Arrogance, Vanity
3. Seeking evil, Thinking evil, Avoiding good, Covet, Envy, Rebellion, Ungodliness
4. Malice, Clamor, Bitterness, Wrath, Anger,
5. Not giving or helping others
6. Seeking comforts, Sloth, Avoiding struggle
7. Holding grudges, Vengeful thinking, Paybacks, Doing evil, Creating harm
8. Love of money, Debt, Oppressing
9. Withdrawing from others, keeping people

Malice - desiring ill will or misfortune of others

Clamor - making lots of noise to agitate

Hypocrisy (hypokrisis) - playacting,
“any person who was wearing a figurative mask and pretending to be someone or something they were not”

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/hypocrite-meaning-origin>

Romans 12:9 NKJV “Behave Like a Christian
Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

Daily Process

Ponder God's character traits, how to practice and serve them, for they are Good.

Humble ourselves away from self-seeking, pride, vanity, idolatry, or other ungodly distractions.

Meditate upon the feelings and sensations of our doing Good and evil.
Inwardly cling to the Good.

Pray for strength, courage, and direction to do Good.

Identify struggles with evil, confess and discuss them, have mercy, and walk in forgiveness. Psalm 34:14

Slow down, take it easy, practice patience, walk peacefully.

Look for opportunities to do God's good today. Be spiritually ready, observant, and discerning.

Take comfort in the Good experienced, find the joy in it, and feel the affects of God's Good.

Empathetically and sincerely; compliment, comfort, encourage, and support others with love and truth. Let conviction happen when necessary.

Progress, not perfection. Improve awareness of progress. Tally up the good each day. Identify errors to better learn how to make improvements.

Teach by example, demonstration, and shared personal experiences. Be ready to describe own progress with real life examples.