

Dec 14 - 2021

Good Works / Dead Works - Hebrews 6: 1-3

Clean up from last week's spillage on Isle 6

With regard to rewards and works committed by the believer – I offer the following explanation

Rewards will be given out at the “Bema” or judgment seat of Christ for every believer for what he has faithfully done while in this body.

In answer to the question by Frank - **Dead works** are: any attempt to find favor, earn acceptance or to somehow be made righteous before God by one's **own effort, ability** or **willpower**.

Often times religion puts the emphasis on “doing right” in order to become right before God. Jesus puts the emphasis on “believing right”

Look at Matthew 7: 22&23

Why are they rejected? Because their hearts are wrong. They have the wrong motive for the things they do.

Good works on the other hand are works we do because of the will of God --as a response to His love or mercy and our new identity as righteous before Him

Doing something because we have received something - Horse before the cart.

These works can be the same works – but through different motives.

We are unable to see the difference while viewing this from the **outside looking in**. They can look very much the same when we see them.

Praying can be a dead work or good – **Going to church** can be a dead work or good work – **reading your bible** can be a dead or a good work

Why does Jesus reject their work? Because their hearts are wrong. They have the wrong motives for the things that they do.

Beloved, we know our own hearts – we know when our motives are wrong. We do not need someone to tell us.

We know if we are seeking the approval of man – we know if we are trying to somehow find favor with God in what we are doing.

From the outside looking at the work – we cannot tell - Unless the work being done is receiving praise of men for such a wonderful thing – Example building a wing on hospital. All depends upon the motive for doing the thing.

That is why Jesus said “don’t let you left hand know what your right hand is doing”

Most folks believe that dead works have to do with sinful stuff or bad behavior - Not the case beloved.

The genuine believer is bound to do good works.

Our position before the Lord is never dependent upon good works, it is by faith and faith alone.
– period

I am reminded of Eph 2:8-10 and Titus 2 11 -14

OK – now to the lesson

We have discussed the need in the Galatian Church’s (notice verse 2 of Chapter 1)

These folks launched their walk with the Lord by faith in Him, yet were being persuaded by others to leave this walk of **faith** and chart a new course by way of their **works**

So Paul is trying to “right the ship”

So he starts the Epistle with His own credentials with a simple message that blessings from God come by the simple walk of faith – not what you are doing (referred to as law)

The law when used properly – condemns man – The law (works according to precepts) and declares him Guilty before God. The law imprisons man – faith makes Him free.

With faith – comes liberty – with this liberty comes the desire to produce righteous acts and enables the believer to produce the fruit of righteousness.

Now skip over to **Chapter 5** verse 7-

Notice vs 11 – What does it mean “to preach circumcision” Correct – The Law

Look at how Paul addresses those who have troubled these believers - **Vs12**

Anyway these folks that came in (stealthy) sneaking in to put them in bondage or

Cause them to be “bumped “from their lane

Paul uses the Greek games to further his point- They understood this example

Looking at **1st Cor 9: 24**&following

Now I run the risk of losing my rewards if I leave my lane.

I run the risk of being “bumped from my lane” anytime I put the “cart before the horse” that is “doing something in order to receive something” the whole process of my doing something in order to receive something from Him.

Doing, doing, doing – rather than receiving, receiving, receiving.

I run the risk of getting bumped out of my lane anytime I accept the thought that I will somehow increase His love for me or his blessings in my life by doing anything.

When I am unfaithful, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself.

Bumped when I embrace the thought that my behavior or works of obedience to Him is going to affect my relationship with Him.

Legalism puts the cart before the horse. If you will, He will - Nope

Col 2:20 --23 Read it

This walk with Him is simple - If you become religious it becomes much more difficult.

Just a side note here also - these folks are justified - Their position before the Lord is not in question – Their righteousness before the Lord is not the issue - The issue is their rewards for this walk.

You can be a flat-out legalist and still go to heaven - we would do well to settle this issue.

Paul is writing to believers. He is writing to justified people - the issue is not position it is condition. The issue is not standing before God – it is the present state of the life of the believer.

If I am teaching my grandson the construction business, and somehow, he just doesn't get it, he is still my grandson. If I am working very hard to get him to know my heart so that he can expand my knowledge and understanding toward the business of constructing a facility, it is for his benefit to learn from me.

However, should he not be able to learn, he is still my grandson. Our relationship has not changed. His ability to expand the construction business is the issue. Can he take what he has learned of my ways and expand it outside of his immediate circle?

Can he go into a new town, find a location build a building according to the plans the architect has drawn up, building within the rules and eventually sell the building to a satisfied buyer? That is the question.

That is what this walk is all about. While Jesus has gone off to a far country (actually building that place He has prepared for us) we are learning about Him.

One day, and I believe soon, His Father will say. "OK Son, go get your bride." At which time He will, and we will be caught up to be with Him.

After that – every one of us will appear at the rewards seat where we will give an account to Him for all that we have accomplished while in this body.

Pretty simple beloved -

I want to look for a moment at how the Apostle Paul handled problems in the church of Corinth.

There was a fellow who was having sex with his father's wife. **1st Cor 5:** & following

Turn such a one over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh – THAT HIS SPIRIT MAY BE SAVED IN THE DAY OF THE LORD JESUS.

In that day – the church was the hub of social activity - Here Paul is telling them to remove this fellow from their midst.

Problem today is that this guy will just go "on down the road to another fellowship" This would not be the case in this day in age. He would be ostracized from their presence and being put out, would lack for fellowship with other believers.

This believer was not condemned to hell – just removed from the congregation.

There is a specific procedure the church is supposed to follow. Gal 6:1 -

In any case, it is up to the church to deal with these matters.

In the Corinthian Church – they took Paul's suggestion, and the man repented (changed his mind) and quit whatever he was doing. Now Paul want to make certain the man is restored to fellowship as he mentions him in **2nd Cor 2:6** & following read through **11**

The Cornerstone Church experienced this same type problem.

Following the pattern – I first went to him, he failed to hear me. I took a brother with me – again he failed to hear us. We then as a congregation “turned him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh that his spirit may be saved – and of course it worked.

He has been restored to his family and again the word of God proved correct. Again, we reaffirmed our love to him.

I want to read you something now concerning the Apostle Paul. Let me read 2nd **Corinthians 11 1&** following then vs **13-15**

The concerning the testimony of Paul – vs **22** & following