

## THE PERFECTING OF GOOD WORKS

(Phil 1:11; 4:18; Col 3:17; 1 Pet 2:5; 4:11)

Though all of a believer's works are imperfect (Lk 17:10), those works which spring from a sanctified heart are acceptable and pleasing to God "through Christ" and gain a reward from the Father.

The typical New Testament picture of a believer's life is one that is motivated by *love* and strengthened by *grace* in order to serve in *joyful obedience* to the word of God for the *glorious display* of Jesus Christ (1 Pet 4:11)

**The Goal of "Good Works" is not "busy-ness" but healthy, legitimate fruit produced by the word of God planted and abiding in the heart.**

**However, It is not produced by passivity but by pursuit.**

**Opportunity to work and serve will inevitably present itself but it's in the pursuing and growing in the knowledge of Jesus that our labour is made fruitful.**

## MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:10

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**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES  
TEACH AND THIS WE  
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

## GOOD WORKS



**"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)**

# GOOD WORKS

Titus 2; 2 Peter 1:2-8:

Behaviour (fruit) is determined by belief (Tit 1:15-16). And since all people believe something, all will ultimately produce fruit of some kind (cf Gal 5:19-23).

Having stated that saving faith is an embracing or assent to 'true words' found in scripture, we now come to see that belief in these words produces a lifestyle governed by those same 'true words'.

## WHAT MAKES A 'WORK', 'GOOD'?

- Good works are those things done in accord with God's Word (Mic 6:8; Rom 12:2; Heb 13:21; Tit 2:1)
- Good works are the overflow of a heart trained in Grace (Rom 14:23; Eph 2:10; Tit 2:11-12)
- They are not those devised by people out of good intention or blind zeal (Matt 15:9; Isa 29:13; 1 Sam 15:21-23; Tit 1:14)

## THE PURPOSE OF GOOD WORKS (TIT 2:1-15)

(Matt 5:16; 1 Pet 4:10-11; Ja 2:22)

Good works are commanded as the means by which we display:

- The knowledge of God (Tit 1:16)
- The glory of God (Titus 2:10) and,
- The power of God's grace (Tit 2:11-12)

1. What do you notice about the list of "good works" in Titus 2?

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**Fruit, good works and godliness are all ways of talking about the same thing - right behaviour done with the right attitude**

## THE POWER FOR GOOD WORKS (2 PETER 1:2-8)

(Jhn 15:4-6; 2 Cor 9:8; Phil 2:12-13; 1 Pet 4:11)

Anyone can give away their possessions (1 Cor 13:3) but not everyone does it with the fruit of the Spirit (love). Here is the dilemma many face, "I cannot produce the fruit (attitude) demanded!" Therefore, the power must be supplied.

The power needed to produce legitimate fruit (good works) is supplied through Jesus by,

- Increasing our knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Pet 1:2-3)
- Through whom precious promises are made (2 Pet 1:4)

Faith in the Promises made by God and fulfilled in Christ are the source of Divine power through which we bear fruit (2 Pet 1:5-8)

2. From John 15:1-5, how do we lay hold of this power? What might that "laying hold" look like in practice?

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**Therefore, fruitfulness, the ability to "bear legitimate children" (Rom 7:4) is accomplished by pursuing my union with (knowledge of) Jesus.**

## DISCERNING THE FRUIT

(Gal 5:22-23)

Consider some of the characteristics that determine Healthy fruit.

- It is founded on sound (healthy) teaching (Tit 2:1),
- Teaching believed and therefore acted upon (2:11-12)
- Works done by Divine power given to us through knowing Jesus.

These works are characterised by the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control of the Spirit who is at work in us.