

To Glorify and Enjoy God

LESSON 21: GLORIFY GOD IN GOOD WORKS

Intro:

BIG IDEA: God is glorified by _____ done because we _____ in God.

1. Good works are only such as God hath commanded in his holy Word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intention.

- Due to the incredible power of self-_____, good works are defined by God.
- This is an application of sola _____ & the _____ Principle.
- Cultural practices which may be wrongly exalted to the _____ of good works.
- _____ alone do not make a work good.

“Works are not taken into consideration when the question respects justification. But true faith will no more fail to produce them, than the sun can cease to give light.” **Martin Luther**

2. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.

- First: done in _____ to God's commandments, not the _____ of men.
- Second: they are the _____ and _____ of a sincere & lively faith.
- Third: they manifest our _____ for the great salvation we received.
- Fourth: they strengthen our _____ of salvation. Supplemental, not primary.
- Fifth: _____ up the other Christians so they are better able to walk with Christ.
- Sixth: _____ our profession of the gospel, lending it credence in the eyes of others.
- Seventh: they stop unbelievers from _____ Jesus and the gospel.
- Eighth: bring _____ to God who commanded, appointed & produced them in us.
- Ninth: a necessary _____ toward holiness without which we won't see the Lord.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and

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Savior Jesus Christ,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. **Titus 2**

- Salvation is wholly by grace but it _____ a new life in the _____.
- Grace trains us to _____ the desires of the flesh & temptations of the world.
- Grace trains us to live self-controlled, upright & _____ lives in the present time.
- This means we need to be trained as a part of sanctification; _____ how to live.
- Christ came to _____ us from lawlessness (sin) by giving himself for us (cross).
- Christ came to _____ for himself a people who belong to Him AND ...
- ... zealous for good works. Christians aren't _____ about good works.

“But he (Luther) examined himself, not by the laws of the monastery, but by the laws of God. He said, “I see Christ as an angry judge. You ask me if I love God. Love God? Sometimes I hate God, because every time I look at the law, I am stripped of my righteousness. I am stripped of my dignity; I am a worm and not a man. I hate it.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁰⁴

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ...⁸ The 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. **Titus 3**

- Insist, be _____ about the gospel, so those who believe will _____ themselves to good works.
- “who have believed (perfect participle) may be careful for good works”.
- Faith that produces good works is excellent and _____ for people.
- This is contrasted with foolish _____ & arguing: _____.

“Good works are the fruit of faith and provide evidence of a true and living faith.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁰⁵

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2**

- Good works _____ salvation!
- We are God's work of _____ made in Christ in order to _____ good works.

²⁰⁴ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 167.

²⁰⁵ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 174.

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- God _____ those good works for us ahead of time. We are to walk in them.
- We see good works _____ faithful women (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pt. 3:4-5) and servants (Titus 2:10).

“Practical godliness is the brightest ornament of the Christian religion.” **Robert Shaw**²⁰⁶

“A saved soul is a holy soul, and a holy soul is one whose faculties are all engaged in works of loving obedience. Grace in the heart cannot exist without good works as their consequent.” **A.A. Hodge**²⁰⁷

¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **1 Peter 2**

3. Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ. And that they may be enabled thereunto, beside the graces they have already received, there is required an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will, and to do, of his good pleasure: yet are they not hereupon to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty unless upon a special motion of the Spirit; but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.

- We must not think that God has done His part & now it is time for us to do ours.
- Begin by grace & faith; we _____ by grace & faith: depending on the Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit _____ in us so we _____ to do good works (zeal, eager).
- The Holy Spirit works in us so we have the _____ to do good works.
- The Spirit not only brings the _____ mentioned, but _____ us to do His will.
- We are not to be negligent by _____ to “_____” like the Spirit is moving.
- When command meets _____, you have the _____, take it.
- _____ up the grace of God by making use of the means of grace so we are eager.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **Philippians 2**

- Paul notes the fact they as Christians they have been obedient in his presence.
- He wants them to continue to be obedient in Paul’s absence, working out their salvation.

²⁰⁶ Shaw, pp. 165.

²⁰⁷ Hodge, pp. 222.

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- This is not working for, or _____, salvation but _____ to live in light of salvation.
- The fear & trembling is a result of God _____ in us thru the _____.
- He works in us so we will & work according to His _____: _____!

“In addition to the grace implanted in regeneration, there is needed a continual influence of the Holy Ghost upon all the faculties of the renewed soul, whereby the Christian is enabled to will and do of his good pleasure. . . . The Holy Spirit does not work independently of the Word, but through the Word; nor does he work irrespectively of our constitutional faculties of reason, conscience, and free will, but through them.” **A.A. Hodge**²⁰⁸

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15**

“There is a difference between superficial goodness, which is simply external conformity to the law of God, and internal conformity to God’s law that is motivated by a love for him.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁰⁹

“By the prayers of the saints for new supplies of grace, to enable them to do the will of God.” **Robert Shaw**²¹⁰

“The regenerated man depends upon the continued indwelling, the prompting, and the sustaining and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, in every act of obedience in the exercise of grace.” **A.A. Hodge**²¹¹

“It is never the waiters for grace, but always the active seekers for grace and doers of his word, whom God approves.” **A.A. Hodge**²¹²

4. They who, in their obedience, attain to the greatest height which is possible in this life, are so far from being able to supererogate, and to do more than God requires, as that they fall short of much which in duty they are bound to do.

- Rome believed that some could _____ such “perfect” obedience as to _____ salvation.
- They believed some obeyed more than _____ for salvation and have _____ merit.
- They hold to “counsels of _____”; optional works which produce “bonus points”.

²⁰⁸ Hodge, pp. 224.

²⁰⁹ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 183.

²¹⁰ Shaw, pp. 166.

²¹¹ Hodge, pp. 223.

²¹² Hodge, pp. 224.

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- Surplus merit is placed in the “_____ of merit” to be dispensed by the Pope via _____.

“The works of supererogation are those works that are above and beyond the call of duty.” **R.C. Sproul**²¹³

“Works of supererogation have no existence but in the vain imaginations of ignorant and self-righteous men.” **Robert Shaw**²¹⁴

5. We cannot by our best works merit pardon of sin, or eternal life at the hand of God, by reason of the great disproportion that is between them and the glory to come; and the infinite distance that is between us and God, whom, by them, we can neither profit, nor satisfy for the debt of our former sins, but when we have done all we can, we have done but our duty, and are unprofitable servants: and because, as they are good, they proceed from his Spirit; and as they are wrought by us, they are defiled, and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection, that they cannot endure the severity of God's judgment.

- First, the _____ difference between our limited works & eternal life.
- Second, _____ difference between us and God. Creator/creature distinction.
- We are unable to _____ the _____ of our sins through these good works.
- We also continue to sin and _____ more debt that needs to be _____.
- When we obey, we're only doing what is _____ of us; no extra merit (Luke 17).
- The good we do doesn't _____ from us so much as from God's Spirit at work in us.
- Yet, our best works are _____ and _____ with weakness.
- As a result, some measure of our works will be _____ up with fire (1 Cor. 3).

⁷“Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table?’ ⁸Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink?’ ⁹Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’” **Luke 17**

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. **1 Corinthians 3**

²¹³ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 189.

²¹⁴ Shaw, pp. 167.

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“The only works that count toward our justification are those that Christ performed in his lifetime.” **R.C. Sproul**²¹⁵

“Our Savior has taught us to pray daily that our trespasses may be forgiven; which necessarily implies that we offend every day.” **Robert Shaw**²¹⁶

6. Notwithstanding, the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in him; not as though they were in this life wholly unblamable and unreprovable in God's sight; but that he, looking upon them in his Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections.

- Our justification is not a _____ of our works, but due to Christ's work for us.
- This differs from Rome which held that people could _____ “*congruous merit*”.
- Since we are accepted in Christ, our good works are also _____ in Christ.
- It is not because of their own _____ (or ours) but because we are “in Christ”.
- He accepts and rewards them, though _____ & _____,

“They are accepted in Christ. It is only in Christ that we are accepted in any way before the Father.” **R.C. Sproul**²¹⁷

7. Works done by unregenerate men, although for the matter of them they may be things which God commands; and of good use both to themselves and others: yet, because they proceed not from an heart purified by faith; nor are done in a right manner, according to the Word; nor to a right end, the glory of God, they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, or make a man meet to receive grace from God: and yet, their neglect of them is more sinful and displeasing unto God.

- Unregenerate people can & do _____ God, or _____ things God has commanded.
- This is _____ righteousness which is of _____ benefit to themselves & community.
- They are _____ : not produced by faith, & a heart that longs to please God.
- Second: They are not done in the _____ of the Spirit, but in the power of the _____.
- Third: they are not done for the right reason, proper _____ - God's _____.
- As a result, they proceed from our _____ and are sinful and can't please God.

²¹⁵ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 173.

²¹⁶ Shaw, pp. 168.

²¹⁷ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 193.

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- They do not _____ an unregenerate person to receive the grace of God.

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. **Hebrews 11**

How does this help you to glorify and enjoy God?

Conclusion: