

Walk in Good Works

For we [*believers*] are His [*God's*] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

Brethren, we are saved from the consequences of our sins by the grace of God apart from any righteous or good works that we may try to do—God only requires belief in what Christ did for us at the cross (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8-9; I Corinthians 15:1-4). After we believe the gospel of salvation, however, God expects us to do good works toward fellow brethren as well as nonbelievers because He saved us to do good works (II Corinthians 9:8; Titus 2:11-14; II Timothy 3:16-17). Loving our neighbors as ourselves includes being ready to do, as well as doing, good for those who are in need.

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith [*fellow believers*]. (Galatians 6:9-10)

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. (II Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Just as we are to demonstrate goodness to not only to fellow brethren but to everyone, we are to do good works even for our enemies. This is in accordance with the command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Proverbs 25:21-22; Matthew 5:43-48). Loving and helping our enemy, without compulsion, is contrary to our nature—our old sin nature but not our new nature in Christ. It is the will of God for us.

“But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:20-21).