

Sermon: “By Good Works? Never! For Good Works? Absolutely”

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10 (page 976 in pew bible)

I. Painful reminder of what we were, vs. 1-3

II. Powerful declaration of what God did, vs. 4-9

III. Practical application of what we’re for

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Two good works worth noting:

A. The good work of giving (spending your money)

Psalms 24:1 “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;”

1 Timothy 6:8 “If we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Malachi 3:7-12 “Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.” But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 “Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

II Corinthians 8:11-12 “If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

II Corinthians 8:3-5 “They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.”

Philippians 4:18-19 “I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

Mark 12:41-44 “Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

B. The good work of serving (spending your life)

Romans 12:11 “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Galatians 5:13 “Serve one another humbly in love.”

Matthew 20:28 “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”

Mark 9:35 “Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Matthew 25:40 “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

- **Application: How can I give? How can I serve?**

- **Motivation: Why should I give? Why should I serve?**