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Sermon Outline "Good Works"

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"GOOD WORKS"

II Tim. 3:16,17; Eph. 2:10; Tit. 2:14; Jn. 10:32f

INTRODUCTION:

Christianity is a life of work. (Jn. 9:4; Mt. 5:16) The church is God's light dispensary in a world of darkness. (Mt. 5:16; I Pet. 2:12) Service is one of it's key words. (Mt. 20:26-28) Paul frequently referred to himself as a servant of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 1:1 et al) Only in work and service is true happiness and joy realized. And, not always work that furthers our own end materially but also work that helps others. (Cf. Eph. 4:28) Does not a mother thrill at the joy of daughter over the new dress mother made her? Does not a father joy over exuberance of son concerning new basketball goal Dad made? Do we not ~~scart~~ to highest moments when we are being graciously thanked for an act or deed of kindness, not that this was the reason it was done?

There is a fathomless distance between selfishness and sacrifice. Christ's was a life of sacrifice. (Jn. 6:38; Mt. 20:28) He gave before he received. He sacrificed before He was full. In the world, He expected not to receive but to minister. He was glorified when His work was finished. (Jn. 17:4; 7:39; Acts 2:33) We ought to follow in His footsteps. (I Pet. 2:21)

Therefore, in the Christian walk, we must expect sacrifice, service, work. (Mt. 16:24-26) We will not be turly happy until we have resigned ourselves to a "stablished" life of work and service here while we look forward to the "rest" and "crown." As long as we look for the compensations and rewards here, we will always be anxious and unsatisfied. (Mt. 6:24; Jam. 1:8)

Judgment will be upon the basis of our "good works," or bad. (Mt. 7:21; Mt. 25; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12,13)

Understanding this, then, we should apply ourselves to a seeking out of "good works." Word of warning: We commented that judgment will be upon the basis of work. This will be individual and not congregational! Not "our" but "you."

I. DESIRES AND ATTITUDES ESSENTIAL TO "GOOD WORKS." PREPARATION OF MIND NEEDFUL.

- A. First, of course, a thorough conversion of life instead of lip. Discuss.
(Mt. 18:3; Acts 3:19) Genuine conversion leads to Christ-likeness which makes for "service," a must and a joy.
- B. Other conditions of heart which can be cultivated, if converted, if not immediately felt.
 - 1. Be ready (Tit. 3:1)
 - 2. Allow self to be "stablished."
(II Thess. 2:17)
 - 3. Prepare (2 Tim. 2:21)
 - 4. Study to see what furnished
(II Tim. 3:17; 2:15)
 - 5. Cultivate zeal (Tit. 2:14; I Tim. 6:18)
 - 6. Maintain, pursue (Tit. 3:8,14)
 - 7. Provoke one another (Heb. 10:24)
 - 8. Realization that all good works will not be evident or manifest now. Thus must trust God who "sees in secret," and expect our reward from Him. (I Tim. 5:25; Mt. 6:3-6)

II. WOMEN OFTEN MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH "GOOD WORKS."

- A. Sometimes women complain that men will not let them do anything. True, they do not have a place of leadership in the church. (I Cor. 14:34ff; I Tim. 2) A place of subjection. (I Cor. 11:3; Tit. 2:5; I Pet. 3:1,2) This is not inferiority, but God's ranking. There is still a world to do. Not necessary to be a "chief" to do good.
- B. Great need in the world today for more women of following description, ambition and desire.
 - 1. Paul describes (Tit. 2:3-5)
 - 2. Modesty through "good works."
(I Tim. 2:9-10,15) EXAMPLE: Dorcas (Acts 9:36ff.) Church needs more "Dorcas's". Great women in the Bible known more for their virtue, chastity, willingness to work than for places of leadership. God emphasizes woman in the home and as a helpmeet.

3. (I Tim. 5:10) "follows every good work."

- a. brought up children (2:15)
- b. hospitality to strangers
- c. washed saint's feet (how many would do this even if necessary today? Men?)
- d. relieved afflicted.

C. Phil. 4:3; Rom. 16:1; ~~Acts 13:50~~; 16:13; 17:4,12.

III. OTHER SUNDRY "GOOD WORKS."

- A. Good deeds to enemies (Mt. 5:43-48; Lk. 6:27; Rm. 12:19-21)
- B. Treating others as self (Mt. 7:12; Col. 3:13)
- C. Restore weak (Gal. 6:1; Jam. 5:19,20)
- D. Teaching (Acts 5:42; Heb. 5:12ff)
- E. Putting kingdom first (Mt. 6:33)
- F. Using talents (Mt. 25:14ff)
- G. Helping prophet, righteous man, child (Mt. 10:40-42)
- H. Possess vessel in sanctification and honor (I Thess. 4:4)
- I. Study to be quiet. . . (I Thes. 4:11,12)
- J. Visit orphans and widows, keep self unspotted (Jam. 1:27)
- K. Render to gov't; obey every ordinance (Mk. 12:17; Rm. 13:1-6; I Pet. 2:13-17)
- L. Relieving pain of suffering and afflicted (Mt. 8:2-4--leper; 5:13--cent.; Mt. 25:31ff)
- M. Helping poor (Mt. 12:1; Rm. 12:13; Mt. 19:21)
- N. Prayer for others (Acts 12:5 et al.)
- O. Mercy to animals (Mt. 12:11)
- P. Office of bishop (I Tim. 3:1)
- Q. And others.

CONCLUSION:

Whole idea based upon one great principle: "freely ye received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8) Also, Paul. (Rm. 1:14) Grand thought. (Rev. 14:13) Many still in darkness. (Eph. 5:11; Col. 1:21) Christ though His life and service made possible your salvation. Water of life flow freely today; would you not come and drink? Mt. 11:28-30