

Zealous For Good Works

'For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works'
(Titus 2:11-14)

Dead works vs good works

'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them'

(Eph.2:8-10)

✓ *'There is none who does good, no, not one...'*

✓ **Barnabas was** *'a good man, full of the Holy Spirit'* (Acts 11:24)

✓ *'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness...'* (Gal.5:22)

✓ *'A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good'* (Luke 6:47)

✓ *'...every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit'* (Matt.7:17-18)

'But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop' (Matt.13:8)

✓ **The fruit of the Spirit is the life of Jesus flowing through us**

✓ *'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him' (Acts 10:38)*

✓ **Note: Jesus did good works in addition to healing**

✓ **What good works and healings did He do?**

- ✓ **Turned the water into wine**
- ✓ **Fed the 5,000**
- ✓ **Healed the paralysed and disabled**
- ✓ **Gave sight to the blind, hearing the deaf, enabled the mute to speak**
- ✓ **Cleansed lepers**
- ✓ **The miraculous catch of fish**
- ✓ **Included the outcasts**
- ✓ **The coin in the mouth of a fish**

Most of these things He did miraculously

'...Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings?'

(1 Cor.12:29-30)

If we don't have the gifts of miracles and healings, can we still do good to these people?

**This is how Luke records the
commencement of Jesus' ministry:**

'And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord"'

(Luke 4:17-19)

**This is how Luke records the beginning of the
book of Acts:**

***'The former account I made, O Theophilus, of
all that Jesus began both to do and teach'
(Acts 1:1)***

**The Church is the body of Christ, continuing
the good works He did on earth...**

...but good works are not works-driven

All that Jesus did He could do because He was anointed and led by the Spirit. He came to earth, not to do His own will but the will of the Father

'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner'

(John 5:19)

'I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak'

(John 12:49)

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it'

(John 14:12-14)

- ✓ **This is for all who *believe*, not just miracle workers**
- ✓ **They will do His works and greater *works*. Not greater *miracles*. None have surpassed the miracles of Jesus**
- ✓ **As we do HIS will, we can ask whatever we want and it shall be done. *'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples'* (John 15:7-8)**
- ✓ **Good works produced by the Spirit glorify God and draw attention to the gospel**

'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven'

(Matt.5:16)

'...having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation'

(1 Pet.2:12)

'Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me"'

(John 10:25)

'Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves'

(John 14:11)

**The fruit that testifies most to Jesus is the love
we have for one another**

***'A new commandment I give to you, that you
love one another; as I have loved you, that you
also love one another. By this all will know that
you are My disciples, if you have love for one
another'***

(John 13:35)

Summary

**The grace of God redeems a people who are
zealous for good works!**