

INTRODUCTION

The gospel, the good news, is not that the sinner can save himself by good works. That could not be good news, but only bad news, because the sinner cannot be saved by doing good works. When a person is guilty of breaking God's law by the wicked works he has done, he cannot make himself innocent by doing good works, no matter how good they are, and no matter how many he does. He cannot cancel the guilt of his wicked works before God

- by doing good works for the community
- by doing good works for the church
- by doing good works for the family
- by doing good works for the poor

The gospel, the good news, is that the sinner can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came down here to earth to do all of the good works that we should have done, but did not. And as He died on the cross, He paid all the penalty that we deserved for our wicked works. Now, the good news is that every sinner who turns from His wicked works, trusting in Jesus Christ to save him, will be forgiven all his sins, will be saved from the wrath of God to come. On the great day of judgment, the sinner who is in Jesus Christ through faith will not be sent for punishment in the lake of fire, but will be welcomed in to the eternal joy of living in God's presence and favor, forever.

We who are in Jesus Christ by faith, who are His disciples, have experienced a new creation on the inside, where it cannot be seen; we are new creatures by the regeneration or new birth worked in us by the Holy Spirit. In that new creation, we are created to do good works. We are not *saved* by doing good works, but we *serve* by good works. We serve our Lord Jesus Christ; we serve His congregation, His church; and we serve our fellow men by doing good works that shine His light for those who are still in their sins.

So, the Bible speaks in many places about the disciples of Jesus Christ doing good works. We find it right in 1 Timothy, where we are studying. **As our Lord's apostle teaches us about the duties of the Christian in the family or household, we learn again the importance of good works---specifically, works of mercy.**

TEXT

1 Timothy 5:10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

BODY

As our Lord's apostle teaches us about the duties of the Christian in the family or household, we learn again the importance of good works---specifically, works of mercy.

- I. Exhortation to Good Works
 - A. In the words of our Lord Jesus, from the Sermon On the Mount - Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
 - B. As expressed to the sisters in the congregation
 - 1. 1 Tim 5:10 well reported for good works
 - 2. 1 Tim 5:10 diligently followed every good work
 - 3. 1 Tim 2:9-10 adorn themselves...with good works
 - C. As expressed to those in the congregation who are well off enough to have more than they need
 - 1. 1 Tim 6:18a Let them do good, that they be rich in good works...
 - D. As expressed to all the Lord's disciples
 - 1. Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.
 - 2. Titus 3:14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

- II. Good Works In General, for Your Family, As Expressed to the Sisters in the Congregation
 - A. Marrying, and being faithful to your husband
 - B. Bearing children, bringing up children
 - C. Ruling the house
 - D. These we have looked at together already

- III. A Specific Type of Good Works: Works of Mercy - 1 Tim 5:10
 - A. Lodging strangers
 - 1. taking people into your home, not because they are your friends and family, but because they belong to Jesus Christ
 - B. Washing the saints' feet
 - 1. their literal practice
 - 2. we don't have much call for that literal practice
 - 3. what is the nearest equivalent for us?
 - a) cleaning
 - b) humble
 - C. Relieving the afflicted
 - 1. including the poor and needy - Proverbs 31:20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.
 - 2. including others who are afflicted, whatever might be the nature of their troubles

IV. Examples of Works of Mercy

A. Dorcas - relieving the afflicted

1. Acts 9:36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.
 - a) note here the same distinction we are working from in 1 Tim 5 - good works in general, charitable deeds in particular
 - b)
2. Acts 9:39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.
3. widows
4. note she is full of good works
5. note that no husband and children are mentioned; the Bible teaches us that those who do not have husband and children to care for may be able more fully to devote themselves to the kind of service to Jesus Christ that we see in Dorcas

B. Lydia - lodging strangers

1. Acts 16:14-15 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.
2. missionaries travelling

C. Gaius - lodging strangers

1. 3 John 1:5-8 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, 6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, 7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.
2. missionaries travelling

V. How Personal Works of Mercy Are to Our Lord Jesus

- A. Matthew 25:35-36 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

CONCLUSION

VI. How Works of Mercy Relate to Family Duties

- A. We see in Proverbs 31 how the virtuous wife does works of mercy as part of her management of the household
- B. We see in the work of lodging strangers that works of mercy may be done right in the home
- C. The virtuous woman so manages her household that she can both provide for her own family, and have something to share with others who are in need

As our Lord's apostle teaches us about the duties of the Christian in the family or household, we learn again the importance of good works---specifically, works of mercy.

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 146

Willie Alex - Scripture Reading - Acts 9:32-42

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Audrey - Prelude "Lead On, O King Eternal" (or something else if you want)

Allison - Trinity 27 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - Andrew lead

Audrey - Trinity 83 "We Praise Thee, O God"

Allison - Trinity 685 "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"

JRY:

-to do good works

-to display or develop good character