

Baptist Confession of Faith

Chapter 16

{Part four}

Para. 1 **The Norm of good works**
 A. Positively stated
 B. Negatively stated

Para. 2 **The Importance of good**
works
 A. Because of their testimony
 B. Because of their results
 C. Because of their role

Para. 3 **The Cause of good**
works
 A. Its emphatic assertion
 B. Its common perversion

Para. 4-5 **The limitations of good**
works

Para. 6-7 **The Acceptance of good**
works

We have looked at paragraphs 1-5 So far.

We will look at the remaining 2 paragraphs tonight.

Which is “The Acceptance of good works”

Paragraph 6

1. The Fact of Acceptance.

Yet notwithstanding the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in him;
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Note:

What is Accepted?

Believers and their good works.

{Proof texts}

Ephesians 1:6

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

1 Peter 2:5

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

2. The Reason for Acceptance.

not as though they were in this life wholly unblameable and unprovable in God's sight, but that he, looking upon them in his Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere,

although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections.

{Proof texts}

Matthew 25:21,23

His lord said unto him, Well done, [thou] good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Hebrews 6:10

For God [is] not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Paragraph 7

“The good works of the unregenerate”

1. The apparent good of their works.

Works done by unregenerate men, although for the matter of them they may be things which God commands, and of good use both to themselves and others;

2 Kings 10:30

And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing [that which is] right in mine eyes, [and] hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that [was] in mine heart, thy children of the fourth [generation] shall sit on the throne of Israel.

1 Kings 21:27,29

And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. ..

Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: [but] in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

2. The underlying problem with their works.

<i>yet because they proceed not from a heart purified by faith,</i>

Genesis 4:5

But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Hebrews 11:4,6

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. ..

But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

3. The fundamental problem with their works.

nor are done in a right manner according to the word, nor to a right end, the glory of God,

1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Matthew 6:2,5

Therefore when thou doest [thine] alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ..

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

4. The true nature of their works.

they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, nor make a man meet to receive grace from God,

Amos 5:21-22

I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept [them]: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

Romans 9:16

So then [it is] not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

5. They are still responsible to perform them.

and yet their neglect of them is more sinful and displeasing to God.

Job 21:14-15

Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

What [is] the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

Matthew 25:41-43

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.