

Saved By Grace to Do Good Works
Ephesians 2:1-10
Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Days 32-33
May 11, 2014

Main Point:

You've been saved by grace alone to do good works; therefore, study God's law carefully so that you can rightly obey your Savior.

1. You've been saved by grace alone, and not by works.
2. You've been saved by grace alone to do good works.
3. Doing good works is how God wants you to express your thankfulness to Him.
4. Doing good works will give you greater assurance of salvation.
5. Doing good works makes the gospel attractive to the lost and leads them to Christ.
6. Study God's law carefully so that you can rightly obey your Savior.

HC 86 Q. We have been delivered from our misery by God's grace alone through Christ and not because we have earned it: why then must we still do good? **A.** To be sure, Christ has redeemed us by His blood. But we do good because Christ by His Spirit is also renewing us to be like Himself, so that in all our living we may show that we are thankful to God for all He has done for us, and so that He may be praised through us. And we do good so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

HC 87 Q. Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent ways? **A.** By no means. Scripture tells us that no unchaste person, no idolater, adulterer, thief, no covetous person, no drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like is going to inherit the kingdom of God.

HC 88 Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion? **A.** Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the coming-to-life of the new.

HC 89 Q. What is the dying-away of the old self? **A.** It is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it.

HC 90 Q. What is the coming-to-life of the new self? **A.** It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to.

HC 91 Q. What do we do that is good? **A.** Only that which arises out of true faith, conforms to God's law, and is done for His glory; and not that which is based on what we think is right or on established human tradition.

WSC 19 What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell? **A.** All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.

Hebrews 11:6a ⁶ But without faith *it is impossible to please Him ...* (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 10:31 ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (NKJV)

Romans 12:1 ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* (NKJV)

Kevin DeYoung "This is not to suggest that God saves us and then we work the rest of our lives to pay Him back for the favor ... Rather, we do good because the wonder of our salvation produces such thankfulness in our hearts that it is our pleasure to serve God."

Romans 3:20 ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (NKJV)

Heidelberg Catechism 3 Q. How do you come to know your misery? **A.** The law of God tells me.

Exodus 20:1-2 ¹ And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. (NKJV)

John 14:15 ¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. (NKJV)

Matthew 7:16-17 ¹⁶ "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (NKJV)

1 John 3:7 ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. (NKJV)

2 Peter 1:10 ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; (NKJV)

Titus 2:9-10 ⁹ *Exhort* bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. (NKJV)

Matthew 5:16 ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (NKJV)