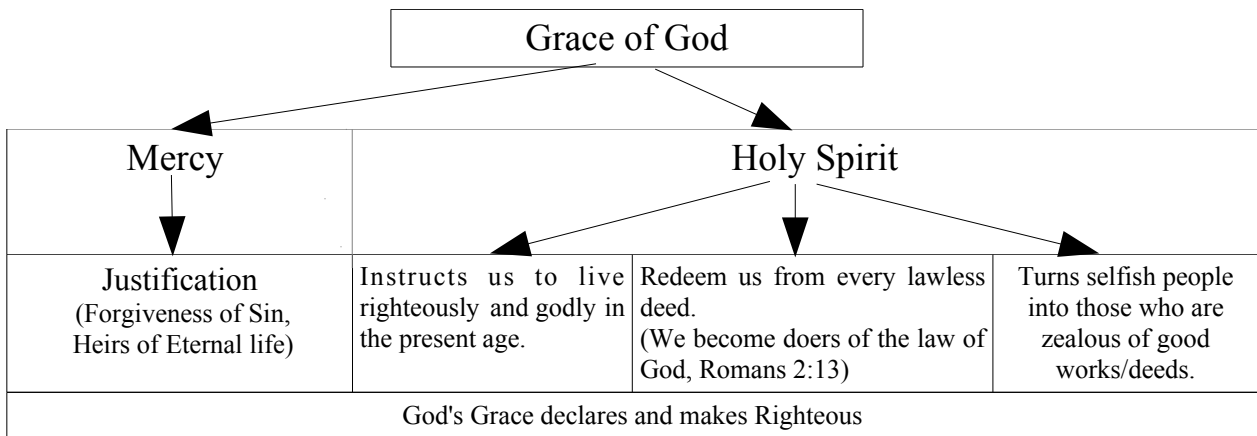


# Do Christ's Servants have to Work for Him?

*Author : Mike Forfar*

Are Christians required to do good works? And if so what are these works and what is the motivation for doing them? The bible makes it clear that it is not possible to be saved by our works but it also teaches that Christians are the servants of christ. By definition a servant or slave is a person who works for his master. In the judgement we are told that two types of servants will be revealed; faithful and unfaithful, profitable and unprofitable servants. It is our works for Christ that will determine what type of slaves we are.

**Titus 2:11-14** “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” English Standard Version (ESV)



Writing to Titus the elder of the church in Crete Paul mentions the transforming nature of the Grace of God. One of the effects of Grace is that it transforms selfish people into people who are zealous for good works. A person who is zealous is almost fanatical. The difference between a zealot and a fanatic is that you can reason with a zealot but you cannot reason with a fanatic. Christians saved and transformed by the Grace of God are to be zealous of good works. Often the devils imps will try to embarrass a doer of good works by telling him that he is on a “works trip” when in fact he is really only living by Grace.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the christian church in the city of Ephesus says:

**Ephesians 2:8-10** “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” NIV

Paul writes to the Ephesian church that we are not saved from eternal death by our works. There is nothing that we can do to earn salvation or by which we can commend ourselves to God. Salvation is a gift and those of us who are saved from eternal death will never be able to boast that we earned it. But those of us who are saved will perform the works that God prepared in advance for us to do. This indicates that salvation has an effect on the character and desires of the person who is saved. About forty years later Jesus himself sends a message to the Ephesian church via the apostle John. They had fallen away from performing the works that they performed when they first became christians.

### The Letter to Ephesus

**Revelation 2:1-7** “Write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the one who has a firm grasp on the seven stars in his right hand—the one who walks among the seven golden lampstands: 2 ‘I know your works as well as your labor and steadfast endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil. You have even put to the test those who refer to themselves as apostles (but are not), and have discovered

that they are false. 3 I am also aware that you have persisted steadfastly, endured much for the sake of my name, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you: You have departed from your first love! 5 Therefore, remember from what high state you have fallen and repent! Do the deeds you did at the first; if not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place—that is, if you do not repent. 6 But you do have this going for you: You hate what the Nicolaitans practice—practices I also hate. 7 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will permit him to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.’  
NET

This message of rebuke is sandwiched between commendation. They are commended for not tolerating evil and for enduring persecution. Like Jesus himself they hated the practises of the Nicolaitans which consisted of a belief that Christians could practice immorality and idolatry. But they had lost the love that they first had so they are told to do the works that they used to do when they first became Christians.

How do christians perform good works that are commended by God? On this subject while speaking to the religious leaders of the day Jesus, referring to them as a evil brood of vipers, says this about being good:

**Matthew 12:33-37** “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit. 34 Offspring of vipers! How are you able to say anything good, since you are evil? For the mouth speaks from what fills the heart. 35 The good person brings good things out of his good treasury, and the evil person brings evil things out of his evil treasury. 36 I tell you that on the day of judgment, people will give an account for every worthless word they speak. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” NET

To do good works acceptable to God a person first has to be transformed on the inside. Then the actions will speak for themselves. As fruit on a tree is a clear indication of the nature and character of a tree so the behaviour and works of a Christian indicates whether that person is a true or a false christian. Jesus is clear that in the judgement we will be judged by our works. Even the words that we have spoken in this life will come up in the judgement.

### “Judgment of Pretenders”

**Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven—only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many powerful deeds in your name?’ 23 Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’ NET

Jesus here makes it clear that only those christians who do the will of the Father will enter the kingdom of heaven. Those professed Christians who do not do the will of the father will not be saved. This is a clear indication that obedience to God is mandatory if a person is to be saved. The Greek word translated 'lawbreakers' is '*anomia*'; it is a verb that means anti law. These professed Christians are lost because they would not obey the law of God. Some may think that doing the will of God is hard but the good news is that God gives us everything we need to be able to do His will.

**Hebrews 13: 20-21** “Now may the God of peace who by the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, 21 equip you with every good thing to do his will, working in us what is pleasing before him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever. Amen. NET

### “Hearing and Doing”

**Matthew 7:24-27** “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the flood came, and the winds beat against that house, but it did not collapse because its foundation had been laid on rock. 26 Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, the flood came, and the winds beat against that house, and it collapsed—it was utterly destroyed!” NET

Jesus says anyone who hears and does what he tells them will be as safe from eternal ruin as a man who built his house upon a rock. Obedience to the words of Jesus is vital if a person is going to be saved. Obeying Jesus is a safe guard against the attacks of the enemy while only hearing but not doing what Jesus says will bring eternal ruin.

In a conversation Jesus had with the Jews they prided themselves on their ancestry to Abraham. Jesus taught them that it is not blood line that makes a person a child of Abraham but character.

**John 8:39-44** “39 “They answered him, “Abraham is our father!” Jesus replied, “If you are Abraham’s children, you would be doing the deeds of Abraham. 40 But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham did not do this! 41 You people are doing the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Jesus, “We were not born as a result of immorality! We have only one Father, God himself.” 42 Jesus replied, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come from God and am now here. I have not come on my own initiative, but he sent me. 43 Why don’t you understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot accept my teaching. 44 You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not uphold the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature because he is a liar and the father of lies.” NET

The Jews thought that being Abraham’s literal descendants qualified them to be members of the kingdom of God. But here Jesus taught that it is not blood line that determines sonship but character that manifests itself in behaviour. Because these men wanted to kill Jesus he told them that they were of their father the devil. Our works do not make us who we are they are an indication of who we are.

Writing to the Colossian Christians Paul says that he has not stopped praying for them.

**Colossians 1:9-12** “or this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. NASB

Paul was continually asking God to give the church a knowledge of his will so that they live a life pleasing to God and thereby perform every good work. This can only be done through the power of the Spirit of God who gives wisdom and understanding so that the Father will qualify us to share in the inheritance of eternal life which Paul here refers to as the kingdom of light.

Paul was big on praying continually. He tells us to devote ourselves to prayer.

**Colossians 4:2** “Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” NET

**1 Thess 5:16-18** “Always rejoice, 17 constantly pray, 18 in everything give thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” NET

**1 Thess 1:2-3** “We thank God always for all of you as we mention you constantly in our prayers, 3 because we recall in the presence of our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. NET

Regarding Christian works Paul mentions works produced by faith labour prompted by love and endurance inspired by hope in Christ. All these things are to be the foundation of christian lifestyle.

Writing to Titus, the elder at the church on the island of Crete, Paul warns him of certain false christians who were all talk and no action.

**Titus 1:10;16** “10 For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group...16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” NIV

These people Paul refers to as the circumcision group may be Jews or they could be Jewish Christians who claimed that circumcision is necessary for salvation. Whoever they were they claimed to know God but by their lifestyle they denied Him. It seems that God refuses to recognise people as belonging to him who take the name of God in vain. That is they have the name of God but not the works of God.

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## **Christian Works**

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Below are a sampling of verses written by the apostle Paul to the Church Elders Titus and Timothy. This is regarding the necessity of doing good works in the name of God for the benefit of the church and our fellow man.

**Titus 3:8;14** “This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on such truths, so that those who have placed their faith in God may be [intent on engaging in good works](#). These things are good and beneficial for all people...

14 Here is another way that our people can [learn to engage in good works](#) to meet pressing needs and so not be unfruitful.” NET

**1 Tim 2:9-10** “I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, 10 [but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness](#). NET

**1 Tim 5:8-10** “[But if someone does not provide for his own, especially his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever](#). 9 No widow should be put on the list unless she is at least sixty years old, was the wife of one husband, 10 and has a reputation for good works: as one who has raised children, practiced hospitality, washed the feet of the saints, helped those in distress—as one who has exhibited all kinds of good works.” NET

**1 Tim 6:17-19** “Command those who are rich in this world’s goods not to be haughty or to set their hope on riches, which are uncertain, but on God who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. 18 [Tell them to do good, to be rich in good deeds](#), to be generous givers, sharing with others. 19 In this way they will save up a treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the future and so lay hold of what is truly life.” NET

**2 Tim 3:16-17** “Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that [the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work](#).” NET

The prophet Isaiah tell us what good works God requires us to perform. The golden rule is to do for others as you would have them do for you.

**Isaiah 58:6 – 11** “[I want you to share your food with the hungry and to provide shelter for homeless, oppressed people. When you see someone naked, clothe them!](#) Don’t turn your back on your own flesh and blood. 8 Then your light will shine like the sunrise; your restoration will quickly arrive; [your godly behavior will go before you, and the Lord’s splendor will be your rear guard](#). 9 Then you will call out, and the Lord will respond; you will cry out, and he will reply, ‘Here I am.’ You must remove the burdensome yoke from among you and [stop pointing fingers and speaking sinfully](#). 10 [You must actively help the hungry and feed the oppressed](#). Then your light will dispel the darkness, and your darkness will be transformed into noonday. 11 The Lord will continually lead you;...” NET

According to the prophet Isaiah good works consists in looking after the needs of our fellow human beings. Making sure they have food and clothing. Do not oppress anyone nor falsely accuse them with malicious talk. We should treat others the way we would want to be treated if we had to live life as they live it.

### **We are saved by our faith but we are judged by our works**

**Romans 2:5-7** “But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourselves in the day of wrath, when God’s righteous judgment is revealed! 6 He **will reward each one according to his works**: 7 [eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory and honor and immortality](#), 8 but wrath and anger to those who live in selfish ambition and do not obey the truth but follow unrighteousness. 9 There will be affliction and distress on everyone who does evil...” NET

All of us will be repaid by Christ for the works we have done whether they are good or evil. Those who do good will receive eternal life while those who are self seeking and disobedient to the truth will be lost

## **What happens to Christians who do not use their talents for Christ?**

### **“The Parable of the Talents”**

**Matthew 25:14-30** “For it is like a man going on a journey, who summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The one who had received five talents went off right away and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 In the same way, the one who had two gained two more. 18 But the one who had received one talent went out and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money in it. 19 After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled his accounts with them. 20 The one who had received the five talents came and brought five more, saying, ‘Sir, you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ 21 His master answered, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful in a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 The one with the two talents also came and said, ‘Sir, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more.’ 23 His master answered, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 Then the one who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Sir, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered, ‘Evil and lazy slave! So you knew that I harvest where I didn’t sow and gather where I didn’t scatter? 27 Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received my money back with interest! 28 Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has 10. 29 For the one who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless slave into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ NET

## **What happens to Christians who do not work for Christ?**

### **“The Judgment”**

**Matthew 25: 31-46** “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate people one from another like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or naked and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the king will answer them, ‘I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.’ 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels! 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. 43 I was a stranger and you did not receive me as a guest, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they too will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not give you whatever you needed?’ 45 Then he will answer them, ‘I tell you the truth, just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.’ 46 And these will depart into eternal [death] punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” NET

Why didn't these people do good works and use their talents? Is Jesus teaching salvation by works? Jesus clearly taught here that if a person does not do good works nor use his talents for Christ then he is surely lost. The saved were commended for doing good works and using their talents and were told that is the reason why they were saved. Paul taught the same thing. But doesn't the gospel teach that we are not saved by works but by Grace. Yes and that's the whole point. Grace transforms a selfish person into a person who is zealous of good works. The reason the people who were likened to goats did not do good works is because they had rejected God's grace. If they had have accepted God's grace they would have been the people who were likened to sheep, they would have been transformed by grace and been zealous of good works and they would have used their talents for Christ. So the difference between the sheep and the goats is not one of works but one of Grace.

The following chapter from the book 'The Desire of Ages' gives such an informative commentary on the words of Jesus regarding the sheep and the goats that they are presented here.

**The Desire of Ages. Chapter 70 - "The Least of These My Brethren"**

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another." Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.

In that day Christ does not present before men the great work He has done for them in giving His life for their redemption. He presents the faithful work they have done for Him. To those whom He sets upon His right hand He will say, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." But those whom Christ commends know not that they have been ministering unto Him. To their perplexed inquiries He answers, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

Jesus had told His disciples that they were to be hated of all men, to be persecuted and afflicted. Many would be driven from their homes, and brought to poverty. Many would be in distress through disease and privation. Many would be cast into prison. To all who forsook friends or home for His sake He had promised in this life a hundredfold. Now He assured a special blessing to all who should minister to their brethren. In all who suffer for My name, said Jesus, you are to recognize Me. As you would minister to Me, so you are to minister to them. This is the evidence that you are My disciples.

All who have been born into the heavenly family are in a special sense the brethren of our Lord. The love of Christ binds together the members of His family, and wherever that love is made manifest there the divine relationship is revealed. "Everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." 1 John 4:7. Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.

How surprised and gladdened will be the lowly among the nations, and among the heathen, to hear from the lips of the Saviour, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me"! How glad will be the heart of Infinite Love as His followers look up with surprise and joy at His words of approval!

But not to any class is Christ's love restricted. He identifies Himself with every child of humanity. That we might become members of the heavenly family, He became a member of the earthly family. He is the Son of man, and thus a brother to every son and daughter of Adam. His followers are not to feel themselves detached from the perishing world around them. They are a part of the great web of humanity; and Heaven looks upon them as brothers to sinners as well as to saints. The fallen, the erring, and the sinful, Christ's love embraces; and every deed of kindness done to uplift a fallen soul, every act of mercy, is accepted as done to Him.

The angels of heaven are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. We know not now who they are; it is not yet made manifest who shall overcome, and share the inheritance of the saints in light; but angels of heaven are passing throughout the length and breadth of the earth, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the imperiled, to win the hearts of men to Christ. Not one is neglected or passed by. God is no respecter of persons, and He has an equal care for all the souls He has created.

As you open your door to Christ's needy and suffering ones, you are welcoming unseen angels. You invite the companionship of heavenly beings. They bring a sacred atmosphere of joy and peace. They come with praises upon their lips, and an answering strain is heard in heaven. Every deed of mercy makes music there. The Father from His throne numbers the unselfish workers among His most precious treasures.

Those on the left hand of Christ, those who had neglected Him in the person of the poor and the suffering, were unconscious of their guilt. Satan had blinded them; they had not perceived what they owed to their brethren. They had been self-absorbed, and cared not for others' needs.

To the rich, God has given wealth that they may relieve and comfort His suffering children; but too often they are indifferent to the wants of others. They feel themselves superior to their poor brethren. They do not put themselves in the poor man's place. They do not understand the temptations and struggles of the poor, and mercy dies out of

their hearts. In costly dwellings and splendid churches, the rich shut themselves away from the poor; the means that God has given to bless the needy is spent in pampering pride and selfishness. The poor are robbed daily of the education they should have concerning the tender mercies of God; for He has made ample provision that they should be comforted with the necessities of life. They are compelled to feel the poverty that narrows life, and are often tempted to become envious, jealous, and full of evil surmisings. Those who themselves have not endured the pressure of want too often treat the poor in a contemptuous way, and make them feel that they are looked upon as paupers.

But Christ beholds it all, and He says, It was I who was hungry and thirsty. It was I who was a stranger. It was I who was sick. It was I who was in prison. While you were feasting at your bountifully spread table, I was famishing in the hovel or the empty street. While you were at ease in your luxurious home, I had not where to lay My head. While you crowded your wardrobe with rich apparel, I was destitute. While you pursued your pleasures, I languished in prison.

When you doled out the pittance of bread to the starving poor, when you gave those flimsy garments to shield them from the biting frost, did you remember that you were giving to the Lord of glory? All the days of your life I was near you in the person of these afflicted ones, but you did not seek Me. You would not enter into fellowship with Me. I know you not.

Many feel that it would be a great privilege to visit the scenes of Christ's life on earth, to walk where He trod, to look upon the lake beside which He loved to teach, and the hills and valleys on which His eyes so often rested. But we need not go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, or to Bethany, in order to walk in the steps of Jesus. We shall find His footprints beside the sickbed, in the hovels of poverty, in the crowded alleys of the great city, and in every place where there are human hearts in need of consolation. In doing as Jesus did when on earth, we shall walk in His steps.

All may find something to do. "The poor always ye have with you," (John 12:8), Jesus said, and none need feel that there is no place where they can labor for Him. Millions upon millions of human souls ready to perish, bound in chains of ignorance and sin, have never so much as heard of Christ's love for them. Were our condition and theirs to be reversed, what would we desire them to do for us? All this, so far as lies in our power, we are under the most solemn obligation to do for them. Christ's rule of life, by which every one of us must stand or fall in the judgment, is, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matthew 7:12.

The Saviour has given His precious life in order to establish a church capable of caring for sorrowful, tempted souls. A company of believers may be poor, uneducated, and unknown; yet in Christ they may do a work in the home, the neighborhood, the church, and even in "the regions beyond," whose results shall be as far-reaching as eternity.

It is because this work is neglected that so many young disciples never advance beyond the mere alphabet of Christian experience. The light which was glowing in their own hearts when Jesus spoke to them, "Thy sins be forgiven thee," they might have kept alive by helping those in need. The restless energy that is so often a source of danger to the young might be directed into channels through which it would flow out in streams of blessing. Self would be forgotten in earnest work to do others good.

Those who minister to others will be ministered unto by the Chief Shepherd. They themselves will drink of the living water, and will be satisfied. They will not be longing for exciting amusements, or for some change in their lives. [The great topic of interest will be, how to save the souls that are ready to perish.](#) Social intercourse will be profitable. The love of the Redeemer will draw hearts together in unity.

When we realize that we are workers together with God, His promises will not be spoken with indifference. They will burn in our hearts, and kindle upon our lips. To Moses, when called to minister to an ignorant, undisciplined, and rebellious people, God gave the promise, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." And He said, "Certainly I will be with thee." Exodus 33:14; 3:12. This promise is to all who labor in Christ's stead for His afflicted and suffering ones.

Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. And when His parting words are fulfilled, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts.

But "if thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it? and He that keepeth thy soul, doth not He know it? and shall not He render to every man according to his works?" Proverbs 24:11, 12. [In the great Judgment day, those who have not worked for Christ, who have drifted along thinking of themselves, caring for themselves, will be placed by the Judge of the whole earth with those who did evil. They receive the same condemnation.](#)

To every soul a trust is given. Of everyone the Chief Shepherd will demand, "Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" And "what wilt thou say when He shall punish thee?" Jeremiah 13:20, 21. "*The Desire of Ages.*" Ellen .G. White. Pacific Press publishing association, Mountain view, California. Copyright 1940. pp 637- 641.

**Conclusion.** While we are not saved by our works our works are an indication of our character and in the judgement will determine whether we are saved or lost. All who call themselves Christians become servants of Christ and as

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servants they work for their master. Genuine Christians are faithful and profitable servants while the false are lazy and unprofitable servants. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit we can live lives that are pleasing to God and are a benefit to humanity.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

**Titus 2:14** “Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” English Standard Version (ESV)

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