

Sunday, 5-10-2020

WORKS...God has established for us to do them

***Most of the scriptures come from New American Standard Bible*

Ephesians 2:10

Parable of the Talents-Matthew 25:14-29

John 14:12

*Not our works that save us but Christ's work on the cross.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of **works**, so that no one may boast.”

Romans 3:28 “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from **works** of the Law.”

2 Timothy 1:9 “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our **works**, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,”

Proverbs 31:31 “Give her the product of her hands, and let her **works** praise her in the gates.”

***Old Testament written in Hebrew*

*Hebrew word for **works** – asah(aw-saw’)- do, make, perform a work, work for, doing kindness for, work for

*Cross reference to Proverbs 31:31:

***Keep in mind New Testament written in Greek*

1 Timothy 5:25 “Likewise also, **deeds** that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.” /NLT “In the same way, the good **deeds** of some people are obvious. And the good deeds done in secret will someday come to light.”

*Greek word for **deeds** – ergon (er'-gon) – a deed, action, that which is made, a work, thing done.

*Connection of Old and New Testaments. Different languages, words have same meaning.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good **works**, which God **prepared beforehand** (prepare or appoint beforehand, made ready in advance) so that we would (should/may) walk (conduct my life/live) in them.”

*Greek word for **works** – ergon(er'-gon) – a deed, action, that which is made, a work, thing done.

*When meditating on Ephesians 2:10 the Lord brought to my thoughts the Parable of the Talents – **Matthew 25:14-29**

Meaning:

- Each man given different amount of talents (works, things to do by God), verse 15 says “to each according to his own ability”. The master knew that it took just as much work for the five-talent servant to produce five more talents, as it did for the two-talent servant to produce two more talents. God knows when He gives us a work to do that we are more than capable of doing. God always gives us everything we need to do what He has called us to do. In the servants doing the reward was the same. Verse 21 and 23, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”
 - **Ephesians 2:10** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good **works**, which God **prepared beforehand** (prepare or appoint beforehand, made ready in advance) so that we would (should/may) walk (conduct my life/live) in them.”
 - **Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

- Be faithful (loyal, constant, steadfast, devoted, unwavering) with all God has given us. Faithful in doing /saying what God has us to do/say, not worrying about the success of them receiving. God will take care of that.
 - **Ezekiel 3:27** “But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth and you will say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’ He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.”
 - **2 Peter 1:5,6** “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance (greek-steadfastness), and in your perseverance, godliness,”
- Be diligent (having or showing care in one’s work or duties, dedicated, active, untiring, aware, attentive to, busy) not lazy. Physically and spiritually.
 - **Proverbs 12:24** “The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor.”
 - **Proverbs 10:4** “Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”
- The master expected his servants to do more than passively preserve what he had been entrusted to them. God has an expectation that we do the works He has prepared in advance for us by using our gifts, talents, skills and abilities toward a productive end bringing glory to His name.
 - **Colossians 3:23** “Whatever you do, do your **work** heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,”
 - **John 14:12** “Truly, truly, 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 the Father.”

*Greater – megas(meg’-as) – large, great, in the widest sense, abundant, **grown**, mighty.

- Do not allow fear to trump faith. Verse 25 “I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth...”
 - **2 Timothy 1:7** (NLT) “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

- **Isaiah 41:10, 13** (NLT) “10 Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. 13 For I hold you by your right hand-I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, ‘Don’t be afraid. I am here to help you.’”
- We will be held accountable. The unfaithful servant with the one talent did not waste the master’s money, he wasted an opportunity. The result was that he was judged wicked and lazy. Verse 26 “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant!...’”
 - **1 Peter 4:5** “but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”
 - **1 Corinthians 3:13** “each man’s **work** will become evident; for the day will show it because it is revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s **work**.”
 - **Revelation 20:12-13** “12 ...and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their **deeds**. 13 ...and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one (of them) according to their **deeds**.”

*Same Greek word for **work** and **deeds** is ergon (er'-gon).

*We are to do the absolute best we can to walk in the works that God has prepared for us to do using our skills, gifts and talents to bring glory to Him.

WHY?

***Romans 8:28** “And we know that God causes all things to **work together** for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

***James 2:n:21-22** “21 Was not Abraham our father justified by **works** when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his **works**, and as a result of the **works**, faith was perfected.”

* Our best job is being obedient to God. He has established works for us to do, in being obedient to Him and doing those works not only does it bring glory to His name, the works (our actions) make our faith complete.

***Philippians 1:6** “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good **work** in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

***EVERY GOOD WORK BEGINS WITH “HERE I AM LORD” OR “YES LORD”!!!**