Created For Good Works Ephesians 2:10

Created For Good Works

- Not the <u>source</u> of our salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9
- Are the <u>result</u> of our salvation. Ephesians 2:10
- Many do "good works" and are lost. Matthew 7:21; Acts 10:2, 22

Created For Good Works

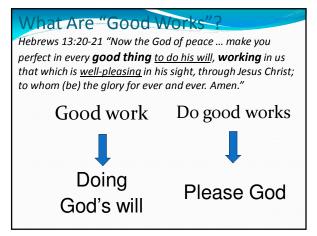
- "<u>We Are</u> His Workmanship"
- "<u>Created</u>" Ephesians 4:24 Used of the act of God (cf. Romans 1:25)
- "<u>In Christ Jesus</u>" Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17 New creatures.

Created For Good Works

- "for good works..."
 - God does not intend for us to be passive. *cf.* James 4:17 "... knoweth to **do good** and **doeth** *it not...*"
- "*Which God afore prepared* …" *Ephesians* 1:3-4; cf. Titus 2:11ff, etc.
- "*That we should walk in them*." cf. Titus 2 ... How to live!

God Defines "Good Works" Proverbs 14:12

- <u>What are "good works</u>"? • Good question! John 6:27-29
- His word defines them and equips us to do them. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 2:11



Your Good Works

- <u>Are Observable</u>. 1 Timothy 5:24-25
 - By God. Matthew 6:2-4
 - By people. Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12
- <u>Are Influential</u>. Matthew 5:13, 16; 1 Peter 2:12
- Paul's desire was to save. cf. 1 Corinthians 9:22

Your Good Works

- <u>Are Not In Vain</u>. 1 Corinthians 15:58
 - By them God is "<u>working in us</u> that which is well pleasing in his sight." Hebrews 13:21
 - Rest comes to those who labor now. "...That they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them" Revelation 14:13; cf. Hebrews 4:10

To Walk In Good Works, We Must

Be an example (pattern) of good works - Titus 2:7

- An example; a form to follow; "a figure formed by a blow or impression …" cf. Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12.
- Since your good works are observable & influential they are to be an example for others to follow.
- > Like Titus, we are to be examples for Christ in word, attitude, worship, character, service, etc.

To Walk In Good Works, We Must

Be Zealous for Good Works – Titus 2:14.

- Burning with, "most eagerly desirous of," fervent, burning desire.
- We are to stir up good works in each other Hebrews 10:24.
- It is not "*grievous*" but a joy to walk in good works of God! 1 John 5:3; 2:5
- Do not begrudge (resent) doing the good works of God.

To Walk In Good Works, We Must

Be Ready for Every Good Work - Titus 3:1.

- Prepared, ready, using opportunities. (Ephesians 5:16).
- Ready to give answer. (1 Peter 3:15)
- Readiness implies watchfulness & faithfulness to do what is good cf. Matthew 24:42-46; (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
- Shows wisdom rather than selfish ambitions cf. Colossians 4:5-6.

To Walk In Good Works, We Must

Be Careful to Maintain Good Works - Titus 3:8.

- "Careful" to think, to be careful, thoughtful to give attention to.
- *"Maintain"* "fix their attention on being active in providing help' or '... in giving aid" (Greek-English-Semantic Domain). Thoughtful and careful to continue to attend to good works.

How?

- By giving diligent attention to God's word - 2 Timothy 2:15.
- By looking for opportunities to apply it! cf. Galatians 6:10
- No room for neglect / apathy in carefully maintaining good works!

To Walk In Good Works, We Must

- Learn to Maintain Good Works Titus 3:14.
- Increase our knowledge by use and practice; to be in the habit of (cf. Hebrews 5:14).
- ➤ "Goodness" characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit. – cf. Galatians 5:22-23.

Conclusion:

- <u>God has prepared good works for all who are in</u> <u>Christ</u> – Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them."
- <u>Only those who do the good works of God are</u> <u>pleasing to Him</u> – Hebrews 13:21. "make you perfect in every good thing to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom (be) the glory for ever and ever. Amen.