

## **Good Deeds, A Primer**

- 1A Christian good deeds may involve great variety.
  - 1B Deeds having to do with the Gospel and spiritual growth.
    - 1C 1 Peter 4:19, "19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."
    - 2C 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17, "16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work."
  - 2B Deeds having to do with logistical support of the needs of others.
    - 1C Titus 3:14, "14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. "
- 2A Christian good deeds are done well under the following three conditions:
  - 1B Good deeds must be done as expressions of the communicable attributes of God.
    - 1C Righteousness/Justice
    - 2C Love/Mercy/Compassion/Patience/Faithfulness
    - 3C Logos/Order/Organization/Grace/Kindness
    - 4C Truth/Honesty/Forthrightness/Integrity/Veracity
    - 5C Examples:
      - 1D Patience... 1 Peter 2:20, "20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God."
      - 2D Several... James 3:17, "17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."
      - 3D Grace: 2 Corinthians 9:8, "8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. "
      - 4D Forgiveness and manumission of Onesimus, Philemon 14, "14 But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. "
  - 2B Good deeds must be done from fellowship with God.
    - 1C When any believer is in a state of unconfessed, unrepentant sin, he remains apart from the fellowship with God.
    - 2C Only when he confesses the sin to God and ceases from it can God restore him to fellowship.
    - 3C There is no partnership with God, no agreement with God, and no real good apart from this.

- 4C 1 Peter 3:10–12, "10 For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."
- 5C 2 Timothy 2:20–21, "20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."
- 6C Ephesians 6:5–8, "5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. "
- 3B Good deeds must be done as *skillfully* as possible.
- 1C Most good deeds require refinement of skill.
- 2C Music, technology, business, medicine, teaching, original languages, history, and many others.
- 3C Romans 15:14, "14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."
- 3A Good deeds are often the expression of a spiritual gift, 1 Timothy 3:1, "1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work."
- 4A Good deeds silence the skeptics and persecutors of our faith: 1 Peter 2:11–16, "11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. 13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— 16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. "
- 5A It has been God's intent and plan from the beginning for us to do good works as Christians: Ephesians 2:10, "10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. "
- 6A Good works require endurance; other Christians are the primary recipients of our good:

- 1B Galatians 6:9–10, "9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. "
- 2B Romans 2:5–7, "5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds": 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;"