

## ***Of Good Works, Part 2 (Ephesians 2:10)***

*Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 16, Paragraphs 3-4*

### **Doctrine: The Doctrine of Good Works**

#### *The Act of Good Works*

- **Good works** of a believer are those which are done in obedience to God's commandments.
- Good works are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively **faith**.
- We are **justified** (declared righteous before God) through faith alone in Christ alone (Rom 3:28).
- Our faith is **justified** (proven to be sure and true) by works, just as our salvation is justified (proven to be sure and true) by the resurrection of Christ (Jms 2:18, 24; Rom 4:25).
- Good works of the believer:
  - i) Manifest their **thankfulness** (Psa 116:12-13)
  - ii) Strengthen their **assurance** (1 Jn 2:3, 5; 2 Pt 1:5-11)
  - iii) **Edify** their brethren (Mt 5:16)
  - iv) Adorn the Profession of the **Gospel** (Titus 2:9-10)
  - v) **Stop** the mouths of adversaries (1 Tm 6:1; 1 Pt 2:15)
  - vi) **Glorify** God (Phil 1:11)
- Christians are God's **workmanship** created in Christ Jesus unto good works – made for the display of His glory by His grace and justice, and our obedience (Eph 2:10).
- The end of good works, our sanctification, is eternal **life** (Rom 6:22).

#### *The Ability to Do Good Works*

- Our ability to do good works is **not** of ourselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ (Jn 15:4-5).
- Good works are that **maturing** of the Christian, as a result of the work of God. (Psa 1:3)

- We are enabled to do good works by our regeneration and justification, yet there is the **necessity** of the actual influence of the Holy Spirit to bring about good works in our lives (2 Cor 3:5).
- Christians **actively** obey the Lord's commands, resting in the knowledge that it is God who works in us to obey both in will and deed (Phil 2:13).
- The **confidence** of Christian sanctification is rooted in a right understanding of perseverance.
- The **pursuit** of Good Works is often encouraged by a right understanding of God's use of secondary and ordinary means.

### **Application**

- 1) Christians may not grow **negligent**, as if they were not bound to perform any duty, unless upon a special motion of the Spirit.

Good Works Are Not Motivated By:

- i) Higher-Life/Keswick Theology: 'Let go and let God'
- ii) Mysticism: 'God has/has not told me to do . . .'
- iii) Solitary Christian Living
- iv) Slackness in obedience (Jsh 18:3)

- 2) Christians ought to be **diligent** in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.

Good Works Are Motivated By:

- i) Right/Diligent Use of the Ordinary Means of Grace
- ii) The Communion of Saints
- iii) Patterns of Obedience

- 3) May we learn and continue to walk in the **simplicity** of following Christ in faithful obedience, by His grace and for His glory.