

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

THE NECESSITY OF GOOD WORKS

Ephesians 2:10

The cart & the horse must be in the proper order or the cart won't go.
"Faith" and "Works" are both vital in our salvation – but in different ways.

The question of their right role & relationship to salvation was the 1st Issue of the great Reformation of the church in the 16th century.

It is still a vital question today. Getting their order wrong is fatal.

2 weeks ago we saw from **Ephesians 2:8,9** to see that God's salvation of dead sinners is by His grace working faith in Christ in our hearts, and NOT based on our works.

Today, we look at **Ephesians 2:10** to see that good works do play a vital role in our salvation – as fruit & consequence, not as cause or ground.

1. Salvation by God is re-creation

"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus ..."

Resurrection in Christ from spiritual death – **Eph.2:1-6**

*"If anyone is in Christ, he is **new creation** ..." – 2 Cor.5:17*

"You have put off the old man ... and put on the new man" Col.3:9f
"born again by the Spirit" (John 3), "new heart of flesh" (Ezek.36:26)

2. Re-creation with a purpose: lives spend doing good.

"... for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Titus 2:11-14 *"Christ gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed and to purify for Himself a people ... zealous for good works." (v.14)*

3. Living faith, not dead faith

John 8:30,31 – People who "believed in [Jesus]" but end up rejecting & hating Him. What kind of "faith" was that?

James 2:17 *"faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."*

But the "faith" of **Eph.2:8** is no dead faith, but the Spirit-wrought faith of those raised from spiritual death to life in Christ.

It is – **Galatians 5:6** - a "faith" that *"works through love"*.

4. Good works

Living faith, saving faith, God-given faith produces "good works".
What are "good works"?

The thank offerings of our lives to God (**Romans 12:1**).

The fruit of love for God & neighbor as directed by His Word.

Enabled by His work in us by the Spirit (**Phil.2:12,13**).

²⁷*Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.* ²⁸*For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*

Romans 3

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Galatians 5:6