

Dead Works vs. Good Works

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Broadcast Dates: 8/12/24-8/13/24

Message Date: 3/17/24 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- Galatians 5:4
- Galatians 2:16
- Galatians 2:16, *NLT*
- Isaiah 64:6
- Hebrews 9:13, 14
- Proverbs 14:12
- Philippians 3:4-9
- Hebrews 6:1
- Ephesians 2:10, *NLT*
- Hebrews 6:10, *NLT*
- John 21:15-17, *NLT*

Summary:

*For proper spiritual growth, Christians must know the difference between works based on self-effort and works of faith. For Christ to have any impact in our lives, it's imperative that we refrain from trying to earn God's approval the way the people did under Old-Testament law. Under the law, God's ability to bless was based on man's behavior; under grace, this is no longer true. Being righteous before God is now based on our faith in Jesus and in **His** works, not in ours. Our efforts to help God accomplish what He has already done amount to nothing more than godless labor. Dead works are any attempts to find favor or be made righteous before God by our own ability or willpower; by contrast, believing, first, results in good works. Before the cross, the people were locked into constantly performing; after the cross, we're free from fruitless works, and please God simply by belief in Him.*

Notes:

1. We don't have to work hard to earn God's approval; He approves us when we believe.
2. Many Christians have been misled into thinking that they must trust in their own ability to do something to deserve God's favor; however, the gospel isn't about what we do, but how we believe.
3. Jesus' blood cleansed us from all sin; believers don't have to perform to be righteous.
4. It's spiritually dangerous to keep looking for the way that seems right to us, without God's guidance.
5. Love as the motive turns our dead works into good works; this is the deciding factor. Love for God is the condition for good works.

Category: spiritual growth

Keywords: dead, works, self-effort, faith, righteous, labor, believing, belief