

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – SAVED TO DO GOOD WORKS (III)!

GOOD WORKS ARE ACCEPTED WHEN DONE BY GOOD MEN.

God is more concerned with **Your Person**, *who you are*, than **Your Work**, *what you do*. For who you are will determine what your works are. If you are good, then your works will be deemed as good and acceptable to God.



God accepts the work because He *first* accepts the person. God accepts that person because God accepts the Person -- Jesus Christ. Because believers are joined to Jesus Christ, they are accepted. And because we are accepted in the Beloved, therefore our **Good Works** are accepted, despite the many defects and imperfections. No believer ever performs his duty perfectly in this life. Our best works are without merit or perfection. They are accepted and rewarded only as they are offered up through and in Christ.

GOOD WORKS ARE REJECTED WHEN DONE BY BAD MEN.



Here, we must give a further definition of what constitute **Good Works**. To qualify as **Good Works**, it must meet the following Four Criteria :-

- (1) It must be what God commands -- *right matter*.
- (2) It must proceed from a heart purified by faith -- *right root*.
- (3) It must be done in the way God prescribed -- *right manner*.
- (4) It must be to the glory of God -- *right end*

Bad men (the unconverted), because they are bad, can never meet these four criteria. The unconverted man may do many things considered good by Scriptures. Yet they are *not* truly **Good Works** or pleasing to God because

faith in Christ is absent, love to God is not present. It is not accepted because it is not done in the right manner, or for the right end.

We can think of the example of a wealthy man who is involved in drugs trafficking. His conscience warns him of judgment to come. So he used his wealth to build a hospital, hoping to make up for his sins and appease the wrath of God. Many poor and humble believers benefited as a result. We could thank God for this "good work" done. Nevertheless, in God's eye, this is not **Good Works**, but the supreme wickedness of the man. Why? Because instead of turning to Christ, he turns to works to save himself! These good works has a name. It is called *splendid sins*. Splendid because of itself, the act is good; sin because it is not done with faith and to please God. They are therefore rejected.

Yet, not doing these 'splendid sins' is even more sinful than doing them. The Bible always teaches us to do right things rightly, not shrink from doing right things because I can't do them rightly. It is a grave mistake to think that such sinners are better off without these splendid sins.

Maybe you are not a believer in Jesus Christ. You have been coming to church to worship God, even joining in the congregation singing. But you do not have faith in Christ, and therefore in many of the hymns that you sing, you do not really mean what you sing. So, should you stop coming to church and should you stop singing those hymns?

The answer is No -- you should *not* stop coming. In fact, you should continue to come! All men are meant to worship God. So it is good that you do come and worship God with us. You should worship God, you must worship God, but the fact is that you cannot worship God aright! You are actually living in a very great tension. The Bible does not teach you to stop doing what is right. The Bible only tells us to do what is right in the right way. In order to do what is right in the right way, in order to worship God in spirit and in truth, there is one thing which you must do. You must turn to Jesus Christ in faith and in repentance. Only then will you ever begin to worship God, will you ever be able to do deeds that please God.