

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED - SAVED TO DO GOOD WORKS (IV)!

As we conclude our study on **Good Works**, note:



WE CANNOT BE SAVED BY GOOD WORKS.

Job 22:3 says *"Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless?"*

Job 35:7 says *"If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?"*

Luke 17:10 says *"So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"*

Good works do not profit God. Neither can they atone for sin. As creatures, we owe it to God to obey Him and to do good works, while He owes us nothing. A single moment of obedience to God cannot atone for another moment of disobedience to God, because we are meant to obey Him every moment. **Good Works**, therefore, cannot save us!



WE CANNOT DO MORE GOOD WORKS THAN IS REQUIRED.

The Romans Catholic Church teaches that for some Christians, they can do **Good Works** far more than is required or expected by God. They therefore speak of Mary and the saints as having done **Good Works** much more than what God requires of them. These extra **Good Works** can then be used to help those who had not done enough. This is nothing but rubbish!

It is impossible for any Christian to do over and above what God commands. Because all our works are stained and tainted

with sin, even the works of the holiest man on earth. It is impossible for any Christian to do over and above what God commands. Because that presupposes perfection here on earth, and no Christian can ever attained perfection here, much less our works. The marvel is not that our good works are so great, but that they are accepted and rewarded at all. For even our best works are defiled and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection.



WE CAN DO GOOD WORKS ONLY AS GOD ENABLES US.

The 1689 Confession says this: *“Their ability to do these good works does not in any way come from themselves, but comes wholly from the Spirit of Christ. To enable them to do good works, alongside the graces which they have already received, it is necessary for there to be a further real influence of the same Holy Spirit to cause them to will and to do of His good pleasure. But believers are not, on these grounds, to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty unless given a special motion by the Spirit, but they must be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.”*

Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ -- *without Me, you can do nothing*. And bear in mind what Paul the apostle said -- *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*. The Christian is called to do **Good Works**. We are the ones who have to do it.

Yet, remember that we can do so only as God enables us. To put it simply, we can do **Good Works** through the strength of Christ. Therefore, if you are able to do anything that is good, remember to give glory to whom it belongs. Remember to give glory to God who enables you, to praise Jesus in whose strength you did those **Good Works**. *For of him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things; to whom be the glory for ever, Amen.*