

## Service with a smile

[Eph 2:8-10 ESV]

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Plainly, as you know, we are saved by GOD'S Grace, a gift from GOD, not by anything we ourselves do, aside from repenting our sins and our steadfast belief in the Son of GOD

[Mark 1:14-15 ESV]

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,

15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

[John 14:6 ESV]

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

[Romans 10:9 ESV]

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

We are saved, by GOD's grace, ok let's pack up and go home

To quote my favorite TV commercials, but wait there's more:

Ephesians 9 above, says we are not saved by works, so why go to all that trouble, let's look at verse 10 again:

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Now we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works, which GOD prepared beforehand"

I am confused, does GOD need us to do the good works, he prepared beforehand?

[Acts 17:24-25 ESV]

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

25 nor is he served **by human hands, as though he needed anything**, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Ok, seems GOD doesn't need us to do these "good works", then it seems, he must want us to do them.

[James 2:14-16 ESV]

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

[Titus 3:14 ESV]

14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

Does Jesus abide in you if there is a “need” that you can fulfill and you ignore it, like James said “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” without providing food or a blanket, they may indeed “go in peace” but they will still be hungry and cold.

What “fruit” have you then borne to the glory of GOD

[John 15:1-2 ESV]

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Salvation is not attained by works, good works are the byproduct of grace and salvation, if the glory of the LORD is in you it will be reflected in the works that you do:

[Luke 6:43-45 ESV]

43 "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,

44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

How often during your day do you have a chance to bear fruit to the glory of GOD, maybe it is helping someone down on their luck in one way or another, but it could be as simple as a smile or an encouraging word, or it could also be the greatest gift you can bestow, leading someone to the gospel of Jesus.