

## Doctrine of Good Works

1. Good works are meant to be put on public display. They are designed to reflect the glory of God the Father.
  - *Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*
2. Jesus performed many good works thereby setting the perfect example for His disciples. His good works were also used in His defense against those who wished to find fault with His ministry.
  - *John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?*
3. Christian ladies of redeeming grace will be careful to perform good works as Dorcas did.
  - *Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did.*
  - *1 Timothy 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*
4. Specific examples of good works by Christian ladies include proper rearing of the children, hospitality, humility, and helping the poor.
  - *1 Timothy 5:10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.*
5. Generally, a person who performs good works has nothing to fear from legal authorities.
  - *Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:*
6. God has ordained that His children perform many good works as a matter of living out the Christian life.
  - *Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

7. Many good works are performed in private but some are made manifest. When that happens, there is nothing wrong with it, provided a pharisaical spirit is not present.
  - *1 Timothy 5:25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.*
8. Individuals who have been entrusted by God with material prosperity are to do good works with the money. Christians are to be rich in good works.
  - *1 Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*
9. Diligent Bible study will show the Christian how to perform good works.
  - *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*
10. Pastors and other leaders can become a pattern for others to follow by contending for pure doctrine and by being serious and sincere in matters pertaining to the Christian faith.
  - *Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*
11. One of the reasons why Christ died was so that He might redeem souls from sin and have a people eager to perform good works.
  - *Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
12. So closely are good works associated with Christians, the term becomes a proverb.
  - *Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.*
13. No Christian should want to remain unfruitful.
  - *Titus 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.*

“Must I go, and empty handed  
 Thus my dear Redeemer meet?  
 Not one day of service give Him,  
 Lay no trophy at His feet?

Must I go, and empty handed?  
 Must I meet my Savior so?  
 Not one soul with which to greet Him,  
 Must I empty handed go?  
 Not at death I shrink or falter,  
 For my Savior saves me now;  
 But to meet Him empty handed,  
 Thought of that now clouds my brow.

Must I go, and empty handed?  
 Must I meet my Savior so?  
 Not one soul with which to greet Him,  
 Must I empty handed go?  
 Oh the years in sinning wasted,  
 Could I but recall them now,  
 I would give them to my Savior,  
 To His Will I'd gladly bow.

Must I go, and empty handed?  
 Must I meet my Savior so?  
 Not one soul with which to greet Him,  
 Must I empty handed go?  
 O ye saints, arouse, be earnest  
 Up and work while yet 'tis day;  
 E'er the night of death o'er take thee,  
 Strive for souls while yet you may.

Must I go, and empty handed?  
 Must I meet my Savior so?  
 Not one soul with which to greet Him,  
 Must I empty handed go?”

Words by Charles Carroll Luther \* Music by George Coles Stebbins

14. Christians are to exhort one another to good works.

- *Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

15. Good works encourage soul winning activity.

- *1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation [manner of life] honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*