

Doctrine of Works

1. It is the will of the Lord that Christians live in such a way that good works are produced with the result that the unbelieving community takes notice and glorifies 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. Good works are not to be made the foundation of a person's righteousness or salvation.

- *Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

3. The works of Christ gave hope to John the Baptist when he was in prison and was depressed.

- *Matthew 11:2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.*

4. Contrary to popular belief, the mighty works of God do not always cause individuals to repent and believe in Christ as Lord and Savior.

- *Matthew 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes....23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.*

5. The good works of Christ caused individuals to be amazed.

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

6. Unbelief will stop many mighty works from being performed in a specific location.
 - *Matthew 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*
7. The good works that Christians do might be remembered after they are gone.
 - *Matthew 14:2 And [Herod Antipas] said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.*
8. Jesus has promised that every person shall one day be judged and rewarded according to the works performed.
 - *Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*
9. The works of some people are not to be emulated for promises made are not fulfilled.
 - *Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.*
10. The religious hypocrite will perform good works but only to be displayed before others. This is a shame.
 - *Matthew 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,*
11. When good works manifest divine power, people are astonished.
 - *Mark 6:2 And when the sabbath day was come, he [Jesus] began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?*
12. Sometimes people want to praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they see in their midst.
 - *Luke 19:37 And when he [Jesus] was come nigh, even now at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;*
13. During the days of His humanity and humiliation, the Father promised to show the Son greater works for the Son's usage that the disciples might marvel.
 - *John 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*

14. The great and mighty works of Christ testify to the fact that God the Father had sent Him.

- *John 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*

15. All disciples of Christ should be anxious as to what they might do to work the works of God.

- *John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?*

16. Some family members of Jesus mocked His mighty works prior to their conversion.

- *John 7:3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.*

17. It was the testimony of Christ that many works of the world are evil.

- *John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

Any Christian today who dares to testify that the works of the world are evil will also be hated. To speak out against abortion, rape, drug abuse, alcoholism, violent games, immoral movies and other issues is to incur the wrath of the hounds of hell.

18. The true spiritual children of Abraham will do the works of Abraham. In particular they will believe in Christ and have that accounted unto them for righteousness. Beyond that, they will live a life of faith, trusting God to lead them in life's greatest decisions.

- *John 8:39 They [the Jewish leaders] answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.*

19. One reason for pain and suffering is that the works of God might be made manifest.

- *John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents [that he should be born blind]: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

20. Jesus worked diligently in order to redeem the time. So must His disciples.

- *John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

21. Jesus invited people to look to His works as a reason why they should believe in Him.
- *John 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.*
22. Those that hated Christ and wanted to kill Him had no rational basis for moving to hurt the Lord of Glory.
- *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?*
23. Had Jesus not performed any good and mighty works, it would have been logical not to have believed in Him.
- *John 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.*
24. It is logical to believe in Christ because He did perform many mighty works. Saving faith is very rational.
- *John 10:38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*
25. Jesus was careful to give glory to the Father for all He said and did.
- *John 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*
26. Jesus promised that His disciples would do greater works than what He did because He would leave earth and return to the Father.
- *John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*
27. On the day of Pentecost the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit resulting in many souls being saved.
- *Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
28. Some religious people rejoice in the works of their own hands even if it includes the making of idols.
- *Acts 7:41 And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.*

29. Good people will perform good works and give help to others.

- *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.*

21. God knows all the works which he has done from the beginning. A belief in the sovereignty of God will help the heart believe that all things can, and do work together for the good of those who love God.

- *Acts 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*
- *Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

22. Every person is commanded to repent, turn to God and produce works that are suitable as a testimony of godly evangelical repentance.

- *Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.*

23. One of the great theological truths of Scripture is that salvation is apart from legal works of righteousness.

- *The Law of Fatih does not allow for any hope of salvation in good works. Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.*
 - ❖ *Illustrated by Abraham. Romans 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.*
 - ❖ *Illustrated by David. Romans 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,*

24. The doctrine of election does not rest on the works of individuals with a view towards salvation but upon the sovereign will of God.

- *Romans 9:11 (For the children [Esau and Jacob] being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)*

25. Many Israelites did not obtain eternal life because they sought righteousness by the works of the law instead of by grace alone through faith alone.

- *Romans 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone;*

26. If good works becomes the ground or basis of salvation then there is no room for grace or unmerited favor bestowed upon the unworthy.
- *Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*
27. Those that do good works and obey the law, generally speaking, have nothing to fear from government.
- *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:*
28. There is a sense of urgency associated with the Christian faith. Works of darkness are to be cast off with force in order to put on the whole armor of God and walk in the light.
- *Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*
29. The basis of ultimate condemnation for the unrighteous shall be according to their works since they rejected God's plan of salvation by grace through faith alone.
- *2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*
 - *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
 - *Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*
30. Anyone can know with certainty through divine revelation that a person is not justified or declared righteous in the sight of God by performing the good works of the law.
- *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*
31. When the Galatians were tempted to return to the legal works of the law and depend upon them for salvation, the apostle wrote to ask two rhetorical questions in order to challenge and arrest that backward movement from grace.

- Was the Holy Spirit received by faith? *Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*
 - Was the work of Paul's ministry performed on the basis of faith? *Galatians 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*
32. The practical danger for those who wish to be saved by legal works is that such a position places the individual under the curse.
- *Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*
33. As there are good works of the Spirit, so there are evil [injurious] works of the flesh which may be clearly identified.
- *Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*
34. By embracing salvation by grace through faith, the Christian is not left lawless.
- *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.*
35. The Christian is not to perform the works of the flesh associated with darkness but is to reprove them.
- *Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*
36. In matchless grace God is able and gracious to reconcile to Himself those who have performed wicked works. Someone has said, "God is able to save from the guttermost to the uttermost."
- *Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*
37. Christian women are to have a distinct decorum.
- *1 Timothy 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*
 - *1 Timothy 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, 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.*

38. The good works of some are made manifest in time, but then, so are the evil works of others. It is hard to always conceal what a person is.

- *1 Timothy 5:25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.*

39. Individuals who have been blessed by God with material resources must be willing to share with others and not consume all wealth on self.

- *1 Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*

40. The plan of salvation by grace alone through faith alone was established before the world began.

- *2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

41. In order to bring a believer to spiritual maturity with the capacity to perform good works, God has given to the church His perfect Word.

- *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.*

42. The Christian must leave to God those who do them much evil.

- *2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:*
- *Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

43. The sign of a religious hypocrite is this: such a person professes to know God but in works deny him and engage in works that are an abomination and disobedient to the will of the Lord.

- *Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

44. The Christian is exhorted to live in such a way that there is a pattern to life of good works.

- *Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*

45. One of the reasons for the death of Christ was that He might redeem to Himself individuals who are eager and careful 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.*
46. The Scriptures plainly speak out against those who would base their salvation on a legal basis of righteousness. Salvation does not originate in self but in the power of God.
- *Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
47. Those who truly believe in God must and will be careful to perform good works.
- *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.*
 - *Titus 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.*
48. Creation itself is an expression of the good works of God.
- *Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:*
49. Following the initial act of creation by God the Father, the Lord set man over the works of His hands.
- *Hebrews 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:*
50. Despite forty years of divine faithfulness, the hearts of the Exodus generation still questioned the goodness of God.
- *Hebrews 3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.*
51. The person who embraces God's plan of salvation by grace alone through faith alone is able to enter into the Faith-Rest life.
- *Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*
 - *Hebrews 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.*

- *Hebrews 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

52. One of the fundamentals of the Christian faith is to depart from building a system of salvation on the foundation of dead works.

- *Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

53. The blood of Christ is able to purge or cleanse a defiled conscience from dead works in order to serve the true living God.

- *Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

54. Christians are to encourage one another to perform good works.

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

55. While salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, faith does not come to the soul alone for it is always accompanied by good works. Without good works, what does faith matter? Such faith is operationally dead.

- *James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?*
- *James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*
- *James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? *
- *James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

56. Saving faith is shown by good works.

- *James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

57. Works do justify or declare a person righteous in the eyes of a watching world.

- *James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*

58. Good works brings a facet of spiritual maturity to saving faith.

- *James 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?*

59. Before God, a man is not justified by works but by faith alone. However, before a watching world, a man is not justified by faith alone but also by good works.

- *James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

60. An example of a person justified by works was Rahab.

- *James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?*

61. Good works are not only a sign of salvation and sanctification but wisdom.

- *James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.*

62. One main purpose of performing good works is to glorify God in the eyes of unbelievers.

- *1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation 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.*

63. One day all works of human good will be destroyed.

- *2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

64. Jesus died in order to destroy the works of the devil.

- *1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

65. Christians are not to be like Cain and commit evil deeds.

- *1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

66. The resurrected Lord keeps careful watch over the works of His church be they good or evil.

- *Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*
- *Revelation 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*
- *Revelation 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.*
- *Revelation 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.*
- *Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*
- *Revelation 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*
- *Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*
- *Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

67. Part of evangelical repentance is to perform the first works of salvation.

- *Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

68. A terrible judgment for those who will not repent and perform good works.

- *Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

69. Great rewards await those who are faithful and keep the works of Christ.

- *Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

70. It is not easy to perform good works even after divine discipline.

- *Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:*

71. One day the Christian shall enjoy an eternal rest from the labors of a life of fighting against the world, the flesh and the devil.

- *Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

72. In heaven the saints sing the song of praise for the works of God.

- *Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*

78. God will remember how individuals treated His servants and will reward them accordingly.

- *Revelation 18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*