

## WHAT ABOUT GOOD WORKS?

(CF at Bucklands Beach - EKB - 20/8/89)

1. **Scriptures read:** *Mat 5:16, Heb 13:20,21, 2Tim 3:16,17, Jam 2:20, Tit 2:13,14, Ac 10:38, Col 1:9,10, 2Tim 2:19-21.*
2. Example: The Good Samaritan, *Lk 10:30-37*, "Go and do likewise."
3. Before we become Christians good works are of no profit before God, because they can not wash away our sins and save us. No matter how many "good works" we do the wages of our sins still stands as eternal death and we are unsaved, *Gal 2:16, Eph 2:8,9, Rom 3:20*. We cannot get saved by doing good works. Only the Blood of Jesus, received by faith, can cleanse us from sin and put us in right standing with God, ("justify" us) *Rom 5:9, 1Jn 1:7*.
4. We only become right with God, justified, forgiven, accepted, saved, by faith in Jesus Christ as our God, Lord, and Saviour, through repentance and faith in Him. *Gal 2:16, Rom 3:21,22,23, Rom 4:1-5, Eph 2:8, Rom 5:1,9,17, Tit 3:5*.
5. **But after we become saved** then things change and good works become **all important and expected of us by God**, to show that Christ is living His Life in us, and that we are sons and daughters of God. Works of mercy to the poor and needy, works of service to the Body of Christ, works of bringing the Gospel to the unsaved.
6. *Mat 25:31-46* The righteousness of the sheep showed itself by these six good deeds in this parable. The sheep were not made righteous by doing these good works, but did them because they were righteous in Christ by faith. The "brethren" are not the race of the Jews. See *Mat 12:49, Lk 8:21, Rom 8:29, Mat 28:7,8,9,10,16, Jn 20:17, Heb 2:11,12*. The "brethren" are Jesus's disciples, and as we serve them we are serving Jesus who lives in them.  
  
*Mat 25:15-30* We are to use our talents to serve Christ and God. See also *Lk 19:11-27*.  
*Gal 6:9,10* Do good to all men, especially fellow believers.  
*Jam 1:27* Care for the needy is pure religion before God.  
*Jam 2:14-17* Our faith in Christ is proved to be real when we minister and care for our needy brothers and sisters in the Lord.  
*1Tim 5:9-10* Bringing up children is a very good work, as is giving a home to the homeless, refreshing the weary, and relieving the afflicted.  
*Gal 5:22,23* The fruit of the Spirit is showing Christ's character to others.  
*Mal 3:10, Lk 16:11* It is a good work to give the Lord our tithes and offerings.  
*Eph 5:16, 1Cor 10:31, Ps 31:15* Use our time profitably to God's glory, also *Col 3:17, Col 4:17*  
  
*Mat 6:1* Giving to the poor.  
*Mat 6:5, 1Thes 5:17,18* The good work of prayer.  
*Ac 1:8* Witnessing for Christ.  
*Mat 6:16* Fasting unto God  
*Mat 7:21, Lk 6:46, Lk 8:21* Walking in obedience to God's will.  
*Mat 24:45,46* Faithfully and diligently keep on at the ministry of service Christ has given you.

*Heb 12:14, 2Cor 7:1, 1Thes 4:3* The good work of living a good life in holiness, separate from all evil.

*Heb 13:15* Worshipping, praising and thanking God.

7. After the Second Coming of the Lord all believers will stand before the **Judgment Seat of**

**Christ** to be judged for their good works, and to receive **rewards for their labour.**

*Rom 14:10-12, 2Cor 5:9,10, 1Cor 3:8-15, 2Tim 4:6-8, Rev 11:18, Mat 6:1,4,6,18, Col 3:24, Mat 16:27, Mat 10:41,42, Lk 6:23,35, Lk 19:17, Mat 25:21, Lk 14:14.*

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Sometimes the “rewards” are described as “**the crowns**”:-

**Crown of Joy** for soul winners, *Phil 4:1, 1Thes2:19.*

**Crown of Life** for those faithful unto death, *Rev 2:10, Jam 1:12.*

**Crown of Righteousness** for completing His Work, *2Tim 4:8.*

**Crown of Glory** for godly faithful shepherds, *1Pet 5:4.*

**Crown of Incorruptibility** for those who persevere to the end, *1Cor 9:25.*