

Luke 17:7-10

- 7 “And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’ ?
- 8 But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’ ?
- 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.
- 10 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’.”



God's Saving Grace

Part 2: What are Works ?

REVIEW: What is Grace ?

Greek: “charis” or 

1. Favor, Kindness, Friendship

Gen. 6:8 → “But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the LORD.”

2. God's Forgiving Mercy

Eph. 2:5 → “Even when we were **dead in sins**, [He] has made us alive together with Christ, (by **grace** ye are saved)”

3. The Gospel, as Distinguished from the Law

John 1:17 → “For the **Law** was given by Moses, but grace and **truth** came by Jesus Christ.”

4. A Gift

John 1:16 → “For of His fullness we have all received, **grace** upon **grace**.”

God's Saving Grace: Part 2

Good Known Text about Grace:

Ephes. 2:1-9 → "And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in sins, made us alive together with Christ (by **grace** you have been saved),

⁶and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His **grace** in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸not of **works**, lest anyone should boast."

John 1:17 → "For the **Law** was given by Moses, but **grace** and **truth** came by Jesus Christ."

II. What are “works” ?

Greek: “ergon” ⇒ ἐργον

Definitions:

- 1) Common labor in employment that renders a wage
- 2) a deed or act done
- 3) any product or thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind

Rom. 4:4 → “Now to him that **works** [**ergazomai**], the recompense is not counted as a **gift** [**charis**], but of **debt**.”

II. What are “works” ? (Cont.)

Eph 2:9 → “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift** of God,

⁹ Not of **works** [ergon], lest any man should boast.”

Matt 24:46 → “Blessed is that slave whom the master finds **at work** when comes.”

Rom 6:23 → For the **wages** [ergon] of sin is death . . .

ergon → work, as in employment and gain of wages

II. What are “works” ? (Cont.)

2 Tim 2:6 → “The hard-**working** farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.”

1 Tim 5:18 → “For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle **the ox** while it is **threshing**’ . . .

and

‘The laborer is worthy of his **wages**’.”

Therefore, work, in itself, is not sinful.

III. So why does the Bible condemn “works” ?

OR

What kind of works does it condemn ?

Eph 2:9 → “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift** of God,
9 Not of **works**, lest any man should boast.”

Rom 6:23 → For the **wages** [ergon] of sin is death . . .

What are wages ?

What you earn.

III. What kind of works does the Bible condemn ?

- 1) Works that a man boasts about, thereby demanding payment and / or recognition of his accomplishments.**

Eph 2:9 → “Not of **works, lest any man should **boast**.”**

Recall: the opening verses of this lesson

- Luke 17:7-10 → “And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’ ?**
- 8 But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’ ?**
 - 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.**
 - 10 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’.”**

III. What kind of works does the Bible condemn ?

(Cont.)

Do we have “bragging rights” in the kingdom of GOD ?

III. What kind of works does the Bible condemn ?

(Cont.)

**Do we have “bragging rights” in the
kingdom of GOD ?**

We do NOT.

III. What kind of works does the Bible condemn ?

(Cont.)

Do we have “bragging rights” in the kingdom of GOD ?

We do NOT.

What we **do have is the right to claim our other rightful wages in this life.**

Rom 6:23 → “For the **wages [ergon] of sin is death .”**

III. What kind of works does the Bible condemn ?

2) The wages of **SIN**

Rom 6:23 → "For the **wages** [works] of sin is **DEATH**..."

→ GOD condemns SIN

IV. What kind of works does the Bible approve of ?

John 5:17 → “But Jesus answered them: ‘My Father has been **working** until now, and I have been **working**.’ ”

John 9:4 → “I must **work** the **works** of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.””

John 6:29 → “Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘This is the **work** of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent’.”

IV. What kind of works does the Bible approve of ?

2nd Biblical word Defined as “Work”:

Greek: “**energeos**” ⇒ ενεργησας

Definitions:

- 1) to work or produce
- 2) to effect the outcome
- 3) to aid someone

Gal. 2:8 → “(for He who **worked effectively** in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also **worked effectively** in me toward the Gentiles).”

IV. What kind of works does the Bible approve of ?

3rd Biblical word Defined as “Work”:

Greek: “sunergei” ⇒ συνηργει

Definition: to work together

NOTE: 2 different words, interpreted as “work”
appear in the verse below:

Jam 2:22 → “Do you see that faith was **working together** with his **works**, and by **works** faith was made perfect ?”

V. So What do we do ?

- 1) **John 6:29** → “This is the **work** of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”
- 2) **Mark 16:16** → “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; he that believes not shall be damned.”
- 3) **John 14:15** → “If you love me, keep my commandments.”
- 4) **Matt. 28:19-20** → “... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ...”
- 5) **James 2:14-26** → Faith without **works** is dead

V. So What do we do ?

- 1) **John 6:29** → “This is the **work** of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”
- 2) **Mark 16:16** → “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; he that believes not shall be damned.”
- 3) **John 14:15** → “If you love me, keep my commandments.”
- 4) **Matt. 28:19-20** → “... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ...”
- 5) **James 2:14-26** → Faith without **works** is dead

The Apostle Paul said it best in **1 Cor. 15:8-10**:

1 Cor. 15:8-10 → “Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

- 9** For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
- 10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly.**”

CONCLUSION:

Remember this text: “We are unworthy servants”

Luke 17:7-10 ➔ “And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’ ?

- 8 But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’ ?
- 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.
- 10 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’.**”

CONCLUSION: (Cont.)

And even after all that . . .

Rom 6:23 → “For the **wages** of sin is **death**; but the **gift** of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” .

Titus 3:5 → “He saved us, not by **works** of righteousness the we have done, but on the basis of **His mercy**, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the spirit.”

Ephes. 2:8-10 → “For by **grace** you are **saved through faith**, and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God;

⁹ not of **works**, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for **good works** that God has prepared beforehand so we may do them.”

Jesus Loves You

John 5:17 → “But Jesus answered them: ‘My Father has been **working** until now, and I have been **working**.’ ”