

The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

Chapter 12-Part 3 (Lesson 20)

The Nature, Necessity, and Desert of Good Works

Good works are not necessary to make God love us nor are they necessary to secure salvation. However, good works are a necessary aspect of the believer's life. Colquhoun gives 12 biblical reasons why good works are necessary.

1. **As Christians live a life of good works, they show that their life is in conformity with God's sovereign _____ (revealed will)-1 Thessalonians 4:13**

"The sovereign will of God as the supreme rule of duty is expressed in His commands, and therefore universal and perpetual obedience to them is necessary."

2. **The performance of good works is one of the reasons why the Lord has chosen, _____, regenerated, and called us-Titus 2:13-14**

"Good works are the native and necessary operations of a regenerate and sanctified soul. Grace in the heart is a living, operative principle of holiness in the life."

3. **A life of good works is a part of the _____ of the gospel-1 Timothy 6:3**

"The doctrine of the gospel is not speculative merely; it is also transforming and practical. It is not only the instrument of enlightening the mind but also of renovating the will and of rectifying the affections of the soul."

4. **Performing good works is an expression of _____ to God for all the benefits He has bestowed upon them-1 Corinthians 6:20**

"How boundless, then-how inexpressible-is the debt of adoring gratitude that they owe to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit."

5. **Good works are a necessary part of _____ the Christian life-Hebrews 12:14**

"None is in the way to heaven but he who, by a life of faith and the practice of those good works that are the fruits of faith, is advancing toward perfection of holiness."

6. **Good works are an _____ of saving faith-James 2:18**

"Sincere obedience is the necessary consequence, and therefore a necessary evidence, of justifying and saving faith."

7. Good works help to make the believers calling and _____ sure-2 Peter 1:5-10

“Without the diligent performance of good works, no believer can attain assurance of his personal interest in eternal salvation, far less establishment in that assurance.”

8. Good works are necessary for the maintenance of _____ and joy in the Holy Ghost-Proverbs 3:17

“Though such works are not procuring causes of spiritual peace and joy, yet, as fruits of righteousness imputed and fruits of faith, they always accompany that peace and joy which issues from the lively exercise of faith.”

9. Good works _____ heavenly doctrine-Titus 2:10

“Believers cannot otherwise be a credit to the gospel and to their holy profession of it than by a cheerful and diligent performance of every good work.”

10. Our good works _____ the mouths of the wicked-1 Peter 2:15

“It is, by the faithful and cheerful performance of every good work, that believers commend the Lord Jesus and the way of truth and holiness to the consciences of all around them.”

11. Our good works promote the _____ and comfort of other believers-2 Corinthians 9:2

“Such works are highly necessary not only for the edification and comfort of individual believers but also for the peace, security, and glory of the church.”

12. Our good works _____ the glory of God to the world-Philippians 1:10-11

“Good works are indispensably requisite for promoting before the world the manifested glory of Christ, and of God in Him.”

Though good works, as has been observed, are not necessary out of their proper place, yet, in the place assigned to them and for the purposes intended to be served by them, they are absolutely indispensable.”