

*What are examples of good works according to the Bible?*

Marin Luther said, "We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone." Prior to one's coming to Christ, his works are counted as "filthy rags" according to Isaiah 64:6.

Religion teaches that men can be good enough to earn their way into heaven; but, heaven's standards require 100% perfection. No unclean thing will ever enter heaven (Re 21:27). Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Mt 5:48)."

Saul of Tarsus was a religious man. He said of himself:

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Php 3:4-7

Paul found out that all his so-called good works were not listed in his asset column; rather, they were listed in his liability column.

Since no one can be perfect, Christ provided a way for men to be seen as positionally perfect before God. When one trusts in Christ (Ac 4:12), he can be seen as righteous though he has no righteousness of his own (Phil 3:9). When an individual is found in Christ, his works begins to matter and he will be rewarded eternally for them (Re 22:12). When the Holy Spirit indwells an individual (Ro 8:9-11), he is no longer led by his flesh; rather, he is led by the spirit of God (Ro 8:14) able to please God (Ro 8:8).

An unregenerate man produces bad works; while, a regenerate man produces good works.

Paul said:

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Ga 5:19-23

Jesus said that his followers would know the righteous from the wicked by inspecting their fruits (Mt 7:20). Abiding in the Lord produces fruitfulness throughout one's life (Jn 15:1-8) in a process known as sanctification (He 2:11).