

STUDY GUIDE

We the Church 11.29.2020

[setting it up]

Who comes to you mind as a person who demonstrates a life “devoted to good works” in the name of Christ?

How do you know that Jesus was their motivation to serve and bless others?

[digging deeper]

Read Titus 1:8-15.

What is one word, expression, or phrase that captures your attention and why?

How would you describe a Biblical understanding of “Good works?”

How are good works “Excellent and profitable?”

How do our good works glorify Christ?

How do our good works evidence a genuine relationship with Jesus?

How do our good works help silence critics of the Christian faith?

Many people and faith systems can do good works. What makes doing good works different or distinct for those who follow Christ?

Read the following verses from Titus—1:16; 2:7; 2:14; 3:1; 3:14. What do these verses teach us?

Read Ephesians 2:10 and summarize.

Read Matthew 5:16. What is an additional benefit to doing good works?

Pick the right word for the blank that best expresses a biblical understanding of good works and why:

- We are saved _____ good works (by/for)
- Good works _____ (earn/evidence) our salvation
- Good works are the _____ (root/fruit) of our salvation, and Christ is the _____ (root/fruit) of our salvation.

In the spirit of giving God the glory, what is one specific good work that you were able to participate in that has been very meaningful for you?

Since it's the holiday season, do a rapid-fire 2-minute brainstorm with your LifeGroup to build as big a list as you can of all the ways believers can do good works during this season, and think specifically of needs related to Covid-life.

[living it out]

Sunday, we did a self-assessment on how we would rate ourselves as a person who lives a life "devoted to good works" in the name of Christ. If you did the assessment, what did you give yourself? If you didn't do it, rate yourself now as either "low," "medium," or "high."

How do you feel about what you assessed yourself at?

Do you think those who know you best would say the same?

What does improvement in the assessment look like for you, and do you even feel motivated to do so?

Commit to memorize this week Titus 3:14 (you can even take a minute to pair up and practice now for a few minutes).

Titus 3:14—And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

Go back to the "good works" list that you and your LifeGroup made. Take a minute to prayerfully scan it. Pick one item from the list that you feel drawn to and commit to do in the next week. Share your plan with your group.

Close in prayer:

- Take a minute as a group to thank God for all the "good works" He has poured out on you/us.
- Spend a minute confessing as individuals and as a group where we have slacked as people "devoted to good works."
- Now pray and ask the Lord to show you opportunities to do good to others and to have the joyful obedience to act upon it.
- You can also pray prayers of intercession for those right now that you are aware of who have "urgent need." Pray for the Lord to meet them in the place of need and to use you and other believers to do good to them.