

Rethinking the Kingdom: Good Works

(Summary of Influential video¹)

“Every preacher will tell you we are saved by faith (grace), not of works. But our works matter... The body of Christ is made up of regular people with regular activities and what we do on a daily basis matters. Our works on earth will be our ultimate offering to the Lord at the end of our lives.” (Influential video 19/1/19)

Preaching that it is just by faith produces laziness. What you do matters.

eg. Mary received by faith the word that she was to bear a son, **be it done to me according to your will**, but Jesus had to be birthed by a human being for God to achieve what He planned to do through Jesus. Faith has substance. (Hebrews 11)

Romans 10 **For with the heart one confesses** (the faith part) **but with the mouth one confesses** (the substance part). Living out and demonstrating is the only way our faith can be seen – i.e. by our works.

Matthew 5:16 **Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.** Light = works.

James 2:26 **For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.**

Revelation:19:7-8 **...and His wife has made herself ready”. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.** Christ’s bride is dressed in white linen which is the righteous acts of the saints.

Isaiah 9:6-7 **For unto us a child is born...and of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end...and the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.** He uses us to do this. There is a clash here if you believe the current most popular theory of the end-times, which expects Jesus to do it on His return

Titus:2 14 **who gave Himself for us...His own special people zealous for good works.**

God has chosen to do what He wants to done on this planet through us. It is his people who will expand his government for ever and ever. From the beginning, God’s plan was to display his goodness, glory, presence, ways through human beings in relationship with Him. Firstly Adam, who failed, then He raised up Israel to take His ways into the land to transform it. They failed. He then chose us and put His Spirit in us, His laws in our hearts and minds with the added bonus of forgiveness. God bets his life on this plan working Numbers 14 says in part **but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.** Zeal will achieve it.

Psalms 110 **The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool....Rule in the midst of Your enemies. Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power**

Not the Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand...”

- until Christians want you to come back!”
- until things get so terrible that Christians want to get out of here!”

Jesus is the Head, we are the Body on Earth!

We need to take a practical view – its not necessarily about being a mighty prophet or evangelist, or a great apostle, but of being an authentic believer, demonstrating everyday the Kingdom of God...the schoolteacher bringing the heart of God into the classroom, the mother taking care of her children and raising them in a Godly fashion, every counsellor, CEO, businessman etc. honouring God by the way they treat people, having honesty and integrity...just everyday Christians bringing the value system of heaven into their everyday lives. Every day by faith bringing His heart, His value system, His power into everything they do under His smile and His favour. Some may get promoted to higher spheres of influence. As believers, we have the capacity, opportunity and covenant in our favour. We need to be zealous for good works. Our lives are the only lives we can offer Him in faith, hope and love – the three eternal currencies. Instead of saying “Oh no, things are getting so dark”, we can be challenged instead to take the light into those areas.

Ruth

(Kingdom Living Community, Canberra)

10-2-2019

¹ – Influential (19/1/19) “RETHINK: The Gospel of Works” www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJL4A9xyfKo