

Timothy ... will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul - 1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

In Christ

Or don't you know that all of those who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death...burial...and resurrection.

Paul - Romans 6:3-5 (NIV)

David Kuykendall Ministries

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GOOD WORKS FOR GOD'S GLORY

By David Kuykendall

Obey the five commands listed below and experience your life "in Christ."

Experience the abundant life through living by grace.

Notice that each command is either to believe something or to choose to do something.

THE FIVE COMMANDS

Believe

Romans 6:11

Reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Choose

Romans 6:12

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts

Choose

Romans 6:13a

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin

Choose/Believe

Romans 6:13b

Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.

Choose

Romans 6:13c

[Present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

We can and should obey each of these commands because Romans 6:3-5 teaches that all believers have been baptized into Jesus and as a result all believers have been baptized into his death, burial, and resurrection.

As we read this article, it is important that we keep before us the truths of Ephesians 2:8-9.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

It has been often said that the world is confronted with two ideas of how one becomes a child of God. One is incorrect and the other is correct.

The incorrect message is that God accepts us because of our doing good works. Many people, when asked if they knew how to be saved, have immediately answered, "You just live it."

Scripture says we are saved when we receive Jesus into our hearts as Lord and Savior. So good works have nothing to do with our becoming children of God.

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However, the good works of Christians have much to do with the Christian life. They are an important theme of the New Testament.

Jesus spoke of His own good works and those of His followers. It is found in Acts. Paul uses the term 10 times. It is in Hebrews and 1 Peter.

... good works ... are an important theme of the New Testament.

The verse following the one in Ephesians that says we are not saved by our works also says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good

works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

When one receives Jesus as Lord and Savior, he becomes a new creation. This change equips him to do the good works God prepared for him in eternity past.

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When a believer lives out God's preparation for his life, he lives out the good works God designed for him.

Jesus has a very important word about Christians doing good works. It reads:

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16 (NASB).

Two verses earlier, Jesus said that His followers are the light of the world. Here Jesus says that it is our good works that make us shine before the world.

In the Matthew 5:16 passage, Jesus implies that if we do our good works with the motivation of causing people to say good things about us, we will shine before others in the wrong way.

Scripture says, "... do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The question that all Christians need to ask is, "How should I do my good works in a way that will bring glory to God?"

Scripture gives us answers to the question that can be easily understood.

Continued on back page

As mentioned earlier, God Himself has prepared for us the good works we are to do. So, a starting place in shining before men in a way that brings glory to God is by living out the good works prepared for us before the creation of the earth.

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The only way we can know and do those works is by being in fellowship with the Lord. We cannot think our way into understanding and doing the good works God wills for us to do next.

Colossians 3:1-3 gives excellent guidance in how to know daily the good works God has planned for us. The passage says:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

This brings to mind Paul's statement in Ephesians that we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. We experience this by living out our spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

By experiencing life with Christ at the right hand of God, we position ourselves to know the good works God designed for us. We are not left to attempt to think our way into the plans of God.

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Hebrews 8:10 speaks of God's way of revealing His plans for each day.

I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

We are better equipped to understand this inner guidance of the Holy Spirit when we are filled with the Spirit. We are filled with the Spirit as we live out our crucifixion with Christ. When we live in this experience, we remove the flesh from power that enables the Holy Spirit to have full control of our lives.

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Another verse guides us in how we can know and do the good works planned for today. Romans 6:13c says:

"... and [present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

God wants to express His good works of righteousness through us by having access to our bodies. He will guide and enable us to do the good works of His divine plan when He has full access to our bodies.

God wants to express His good works of righteousness through us by having access to our bodies. He will guide and enable us to do the good works of His divine plan when He has full access to our bodies.

As we live out all five of the statements in Romans 6:11-13, we make our lives available to God because we experience our union with Christ in crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

We rejoice at the life that is our in Christ.

NEW TAPING OF THE MESSAGE

We express our appreciation to Christopher Wiegand, a professional photographer, for making a DVD of the teaching of the foundational truths of the message of living by grace.

We will have multiple copies of the video made and will distribute them at no cost to anyone who desires one. We can send multiple copies to anyone who desires to use them to share the message of living by grace with others.

We believe that this approach will become our best way to distribute the message of living by grace both at home and abroad.

NEW EDITION OF "ONENESS" FOR TRANSLATIONS INTO OTHER LANGUAGES

Recently, a dear servant of the Lord edited "Our Oneness With Christ" for translation into other languages. It is now in Burma ready for translating and printing.

We are in the process of preparing this edition to use for all other languages. We are ready now to have it translated and printed in several languages. This is an exciting expansion of the ministry.

PROGRESS REPORT

In addition to the two reports above we continue to make progress in other areas of the work. We continue to receive requests for books and requests to be added to our devotional and newsletter list. We are delighted to receive them.

Our ministry is funded only with gifts. We have no one on salary so all gifts go for the preparation and distribution of materials. We never ask for money. We do ask for prayers.

Book orders, newsletter contributions, or tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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