

GOD MADE US FOR GOOD WORKS - SERVICE

Introduction

- A. Text: **Eph. 2:10**.
- B. There are those who over-emphasize making this world a better place by humanitarian effort.
- C.
- D. C. But many of us perhaps go to the opposite extreme: we have a concept of the "spiritual" life that leaves out "good works" almost completely - Lk. 10:25-37.
- E.
- F. D. Yet as creatures made in God's image, the glorifying of God and becoming godly people can never be disconnected from rendering service with our bodies: doing what the Bible calls "good works."
- G.
- H.
- I. I. WHAT ARE "GOOD WORKS"?
- J.
- K. A. Not just anything WE might think it would be good to do. (Cf. "in his own heart" in 1 Kgs. 12:32,33.)
- L.
- M. B. But "works" (bodily actions) that are "good" by the standard of God's written word. (For example, is feeding someone a "good work"? Well, not in cases where God said not to do so - e.g. 2 Thess. 3:10.)
- N.
- O.
- P. II. FAITH WITHOUT "GOOD WORKS" IS DEAD
- Q.
- R. A. In Jas. 2:14-20, the example James gives of the "works" necessary for salvation falls into the category of what we would call "good works," i.e. benevolent deeds, humanitarian activities, etc.
- S.
- T. B. We err by emphasizing "faith" or "works" to the detriment of the other. (By temperament, most of us tend in one direction more than the other; we need constant correction and balancing.)
- U.
- V.
- W. III. HOW DO THE CHRISTIAN'S "GOOD WORKS" COMPARE TO THOSE OF OTHERS?
- X.
- Y. A. Christians are not the only people in the world who are interested in doing good works.