

I Corinthians 10; Lord's Day 33

WHAT ARE GOOD WORKS?

1. Their right standard.
 1. The law of God is the only objective standard for identifying good works.
Biblical proof:
 2. This excludes all other standards.
 3. The principle behind this criterion is two-fold:
 1. One, God created all and controls all the absolute monarch of the universe.
 2. Two, God gives instructions in order to establish a personal link between Himself and His subjects.
 4. In the law God demands the heart: His law is fulfilled only with love (Romans 13:10-12; Matt. 22:37-39).
2. Good works must proceed out of faith.
 1. Biblical proof: Rom. 14:23; Hebrews 11:6.
 2. The root of man's being is the heart (Prov. 4:23), and by nature man's heart is totally depraved spiritually.
 1. Faith is God's gift which binds us spiritually to Christ (John 15:1-8).
 2. Christ bears fruit through us, and without Him we can do nothing good (John 15:1-5).
 3. God's work of grace in us produces a small beginning of the new obedience.
3. All good works must have the correct goal or purpose of the glory of God.
 1. Man's works all have a purpose or an end. Every deed of every human is ultimately either unto man or unto God.
 2. To be good a work must have as its goal the glory of God.
 1. God created all things in order that they might radiate His glory (Rev. 4:11).
 2. Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31).