

# WORKS

## Part 1

### The Terms of Work

1st Co. 3:10-15

#### INTRODUCTION

There has been a dichotomy that has existed in Christianity for some time over ministry and daily life. For many believers, ministry is what you do when you are operating in the name of a local church. Daily life, however, is viewed as devoid of ministry. An examination of Scripture reveals that all of life provides the opportunity for ministry for the believer. And, the activities of daily life are ministry opportunities viewed by God as works. Works are those activities done while in the body. We are told that all men will give an account, at varying times, for the activities done while in the body. Over the next few weeks, we will explore what Scripture says about works and their role in God's plan for our lives.

- I. WORKS ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY GOD AND MEN THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.
  - A. The word for work is translated "wrought" "work" "worketh" and "deed" in the Authorized Version of the Bible.
  - B. There are several New Testament "work" related words
    1. Energeo -- to work in. (translated worketh) cf. Eph. 1:11; 2:2
    2. Dunamis -- (used with mighty) -- power; miracles. Cf. Matt. 14:2; Lk. 10:13 (translated "mighty works")
    3. Ergazomai -- **toil; act, deed; activities produced while in the body.**-- K.D.J. (used over 200 times in its different forms)
      - a) The verb ergazomai is used to emphasize the activity of working. 1st Co. 4:12
      - b) An ergatees describes one who works. 2 Tim. 2:15
      - c) Ergon describes the things done. 1st Co. 3:13,14,15
- II. WORKS ARE ILLUSTRATED THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.
  - A. There were works from law that was required of Israel in the Old Testament.
    1. The law provided for work, but no one could be justified by them. Gal. 2:16; 3:2,5 cf. Phil. 3:5 (circumcision); 3:6 (zeal); 3:6, 9 (righteousness)
    2. Israel sought works from law over living by faith. Rom. 9:32
    3. Those under the works from law were under a curse. Gal. 3:10
    4. Works of law did not provide for boasting. Rom. 3:27
  - B. The Son of God performed works provided for Him.

1. No man did the kind of works he did. John 15:24 cf. Matt. 11:4-5
  2. The Father gave Him the works to do. John 5:36; 10:37
  3. The Son's focus was to complete the work the Father gave Him to accomplish. John 4:34; 9:4
  4. He finished the work the Father had for him to do. John 17:4
- C. There are works done by unbelievers to further the kingdom of their Father.
1. They are void of fruitful works. Tit. 1:15-16 cf. Eph. 5:11
  2. They are conspiratory evil. John 3:19; 7:7
  3. They repent not of their deeds, even when facing the wrath of God. Rev. 16:11
- D. There are works done by believers
1. Good
    - a) Seen in the preaching of the early church. Acts 5:38; 14:26
    - b) Seen in Dorcas' making of clothing for saints Acts 9:36
    - c) Seen in the way a woman dressed in the early church. 1st Tim. 2:10, 9
    - d) Seen in the hospitality of those who qualified as widows. 1st Tim. 5:10
    - e) Seen in the proper use of Old Testament doctrine; seen in proper Old Testament doctrine; integrity; maintenance of perspective over world events; undefilement by the sin nature. Tit. 2:7
    - f) Seen in the provision for a brother who is naked, destitute of daily food. Ja. 2:14
    - g) Seen in the character of the person. Rev. 3:1
    - h) Seen in keeping God's word and not denying His character. Rev. 3:8
    - i) They practice the good to all men. Gal. 6:10
    - j) Seen in Paul's ministry to the Corinthians. 1st Co. 9:1
    - k) Seen in ministering to the saints. Heb. 6:10
  2. Bad
    - a) Seen with fornication. 1st Co. 5:2
    - b) Prating (berating idly or mischievously) against another with malicious words. 3 John 1:10

### III. WORKS ARE PERFORMED BECAUSE OF SALVATION RATHER THAN FOR SALVATION.

- A. Grace is bestowed upon a believer in spite of works. Rom. 11:5

- B. Faith provided by grace allows for works to be produced through the believer.  
Eph. 2:8-10
  - C. Justification is not based upon works. Rom. 4:5
- IV. FAITH IS THE ROOT OF WORKS THAT GOD DESIRES.
- A. Works reveal faith. Tit. 1:16
  - B. Works are derived from faith. Ja. 2:14; Ja. 2:17, 18, 20; 1st Thess. 1:3
    - 1. Abraham justified before men by works Ja. 2:21, 22, 24
    - 2. Rahab justified before men by works Ja. 2:24-25
    - 3. Faith without works is dead. 2:26
- V. FUTURE JUDGMENT IS BASED UPON WORKS DONE WHILE IN THE BODY.
- A. Sheep and Goats judgment Matt. 16:27
  - B. Great White Throne judgment -- 2 Co. 11:15; 2 Tim. 4:14; Rev. 20:12, 13
  - C. Bema seat. Rev. 2:23; 1st Co. 3:13-14

## CONCLUSION