

WORKS

Part 5

The Kinds of Work IV

“Good Works”

INTRODUCTION

We often hear the phrase “good work” used in everyday life. Normally, that phrase is used to compliment someone for their proficiency in completing a task. Good works in Scripture describe the activities performed by a believer that are possible because of regeneration and are executed through the work of the Holy Spirit. Good works are done in contrast to the evil works which we have studied. They bring glory to God in their execution. We will study the terms for “good works” over the next several weeks to gain an understanding of their purpose and their effect in God’s plan and purposes.

I. THERE ARE SEVERAL WORDS FOR “GOOD” USED THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.

A. There are two words that are used in the Old Testament to translate “doing good”.

1. The Hebrew word “*tove*” is used to emphasize doing good in some context with the definition being ***that which is pleasant, agreeable (to the senses); appropriate, becoming.*** – Louw-Nida cf. Gen. 2:9, 17
2. *Yatab* is used more often than “*tove*” and it is used to emphasize ***that which is pleasing, well, glad; to go well with.*** – Louw-Nida

B. There are two primary words used in the Greek New Testament for good works.

1. *Kalos* is used in Scripture to describe ***works that are beautiful in appearance; the focus is upon describing how works appear as seen from the outside; attributes a quality about behavior.***
2. *Agathos* is used alone and in composition with *poieo* and *ergon* to emphasize ***that which is beneficial; to do something which profits others; to be a good help to someone.*** – Louw- Nida/Joseph Thayer
 - a) *Agathos* is an inward quality that is measures the motivation of the one producing the work, while *kalos* emphasizes the outward appearance of that which has the proper motivation. cf. Matt. 7:17
 - b) That which is of an *agathos* nature will never end in evil (*poneros*) appearance. cf. Matt. 7:18

II. KALOS WORKS ARE THE OUTWARD RESULTS OF THAT WHICH IS AGATHOS IN NATURE.

A. The Lord uses the illustration of a fruit-bearing tree to illustrate *kalos* and *agathos*. Matt. 7:17

1. The Lord warns the disciples of false prophets who can be discerned by their fruits (works).
2. The Lord uses the production of a tree to describe how things are

produced. Matt. 7:17

- a) A good (agathos) tree brings forth good (kalos) fruit.
- b) A corrupt (rotten) tree brings forth bad (kakos) fruit.

- B. The apostle Paul describes a similar distinction regarding human behavior.
 1. The fallen nature of man is absent of that which is agathos good. Rom. 7:18
 2. A carnal believer, then, finds it impossible to do that which is outwardly good (kalos). Rom. 7:18, 21
- C. Scripture lists some of the works noted as good (kalos) works.
 1. Performing the office of bishop. 1st Tim. 3:1
 2. Performing the works of a house despot. 1st Tim. 5:10

III. THE USE OF KALOS WORKS WITH SIGHT WORDS ILLUSTRATE THE QUALITY OF THE WORKS.

- A. The use of kalos with eido notes the fact that these type of works can be observed by others. Matt. 5:16
 1. Israel was pictured during Christ's earthly ministry as being the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Matt. 5:14,15,16
 2. The Lord exhorted the nation to let their light shine before mankind. Matt. 5:16
 3. The result of Israel letting their light shine is that men would "see" their good works.
 - a) "Eido" is aorist subj. of orao which is used in Scripture of **seeing something with mental discernment of thought, resulting in an understanding about the thing that is viewed**. Cf. Matt. 24:15 (of those who view the abomination of desolation); Matt. 27:24 (of Pilate's observation of the Jews' opposition to the Lord); Acts 14:11 (of the people of Lycaonia seeing the miracle Paul performed)
 - b) The result of seeing the good works of the nation would cause the Father to be "glorified". Vs. 16
- B. Kalos is used with prodelos to convey that which is "**plain before all men, that is, obvious; evident, manifest (open) beforehand**." -- Strong's lexicon. Cf. 1st Tim. 5:24-25
- C. Kalos is used with the verb deiknuo of **that which is graphically displayed; to pictorially display something in order to convey a message**. --K.D.J.
John Acts 10:28 (of the Lord showing Peter of the cleansing of the Gentiles); John 20:20 (of the Lord displaying His resurrection from the dead); 1st Tim. 6:15 (of the Lord's displaying He is the only true dictator); Ja. 3:13 (seen with works)

- D. Kalos is used with epopteuo which is used two times in Scripture “**to look upon, to observe, to be a spectator, to view carefully, to watch over a period of time. The present tense indicates the covering of a longer period of time and includes the observer’s memory and reflection upon the deeds.**” -- Reinecker/Rogers’ Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament cf. 1st Pet. 2:12; 3:2

IV. GRACE BELIEVERS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO KALOS WORKS.

- A. *Kalos* works are performed as result of one’s ***routine manner of life, one’s daily conduct***. 1 Pet. 2:12 (Gal. 1:13; 1 Pet. 3:1)
- B. Grace believers are instructed to take a careful attitude towards *Kalos* works.
1. Believers are instructed to *reflectively think* on *kalos* works that can be performed. Tit. 3:8
 2. An important reason for fellowshiping with other believers for the purpose of *provoking one another* to love and *kalos* works. Heb. 10:24
 3. The believer with the gift of organization is instructed to *organize* good works for *necessary*, those things that are of necessity (2 Co. 9:7) *uses*. Tit. 3:8
- C. Performance of *kalos* works are beneficial.
1. Performance of *kalos* works hinders negative responses by the unbeliever to believers. Tit. 2:7; Tit. 3:8; Rom. 12:17
 2. Performance of *kalos* works brings glory to God. 1 Pet. 2:12

CONCLUSION