

# **The Mercy of God Displayed in the Good Works of the Church**

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

**August 5, 2007**

## Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

# Key Question:

What does the Bible mean when it says that we have been created for “good works”?

Answer: good works are the visible manifestation of the mercy of God that is pouring through our lives.

# Therefore...

Good works are meant for the glory of God and not for our own glory.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)

## Titus 2:11-14

For the *grace of God* has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are *zealous* for good works.

## Titus 3:4-8

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

# What is Paul Saying to Titus?

Titus, when you teach your church, insist that they were saved by the mercy of God in Christ and not good works, so that they might devote themselves to good works.

# A Key Thought:

- As we walk in the good works that God has prepared for us, his presence and power and authority become real to us
- We will get who we are in Christ when we walk in obedience to Christ.

# August: A Month of Prayer

- Prayer for our neighborhoods
  - Prayer, Care, Share
- Prayer for the SMORE area