

THE GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANT

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“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’
(Matthew 25:23)

These words have great power, especially considering the master in this parable is understood to be Jesus. Every Christian should long to hear these words from Jesus! It should be our goal to please Him.

The Bible teaches us that, “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). All believers were created, not just for salvation, but also for the good works God prepared for us. In the Parable of the Talents, the servants were intended and expected to be faithful. Likewise, God intends and expects us to be faithful in performing good works. Why? Because He is the One who prepared these good works for us!

The response from the master in Matthew 25:23 is also a foretaste of heaven. In Revelation 14:13, speaking about believers in heaven, we are promised, “that their deeds follow them.” Yes, the good deeds we do on earth will follow us to heaven! It is in heaven that the Christian will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” This is another great motivation for seeking to please Christ - by acting on those good works God has prepared for us.

God loves each one of us and it is by simple faith that we are given the gift of Christ’s salvation. But after salvation comes a call by God to act in a way that is “good and faithful.” To be a good and faithful servant, we must seek the good works God has prepared for us and act upon them. Be assured, nothing will be missed – your good deeds will follow you even after death into heaven. Praise the Lord!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Take a moment and check your motives for acts of service and ministry. Are they to please Christ or to please our neighbour?

What good works do you believe God has prepared for you? Have you been faithful in performing them (or are there some good works which you have abandoned but which God has not forgotten)?

Have you ever considered your good deeds following you to heaven? As you think of this, which of your good works have most glorified Jesus, your Master?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings of life and for your wondrous work of salvation. Help me to be faithful to you each day. I desire to walk with you and serve you in my life and work. Guide me to be a good manager of the abilities, resources, relationships, and time you’ve given me. Help me to recognise and walk in the good works you’ve prepared for me. In Jesus name. Amen.

