

## Works After Believing

### Commentary for December 15, 2022 — You are Saved AND You Will Be Rewarded

The apostle Paul wrote:

**“If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.**

**For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

**For the scripture says, ‘Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed’ [dis-graced]. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

• **Romans 10:9–13** [quoting Isaiah 28:16]

Of course, all your belief and all your confessions are motivated by God Himself. Remember, belief and faith are the same gift from God:

**“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

[Why?] **For we are his workmanship** [HIS achievement!], **created in Christ Jesus**  
[Why?] **unto good works, which God has before ordained**  
[To what result?] **that we should walk in them.”**

• **Ephesians 2:8–10**

God’s gift of faith is not only for us, but also it extends to those we help, through our good works, throughout our lives. The original motivation comes in a direct line:

- from God,
- through us,
- to them.

Now that I reminded you of what you already knew and understood, we all can freely go about our “Father’s business.” Now — at this moment — good works achieve benefit for those you are helping, but also you accrue awards because you are doing those works for the right reasons. You help individuals understand, you help by giving someone appropriate physical aid, giving consolation, empathy, laughter, spending time with them, listening to them, sustaining them in some way through food, drink, whatever it is that you do for them. Make the time spent with **you** somehow better than before you interacted with them.

### **Who Benefits?**

Everyone wins. Everyone benefits:

- God is pleased because His will is fulfilled through you, with your cooperation, not by being opposed to Him;

- Others benefit by you helping them (however small the “works,” perhaps as little as just a kind word or smile);
- You benefit by doing God’s will, even when it is done spontaneously.
- You benefit again by gaining a future reward by using your talents that God gave you.
- You benefit by gaining still more freedom to do more good works under God’s will.

**“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,**

**‘If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed;**

**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you FREE**

**... If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”**

**• John 8:31–32, 36**

Paul gave admonitions to do good works, even to those who work involuntarily:

**“Servants [whether slaves or bondservants], be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh,**

- **with fear and trembling,**
- **in singleness of your heart,**
- **as unto Christ;**

**Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ,**

- **doing the will of God from the heart;**
- **With good will doing service,**
- **as to the Lord, and not to men.**

**Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.”**

**• Ephesians 6:5–8**

Remember, we were created, born, and are learning how to serve others. That is the training we undergo in this lifetime. There are many who do not believe Christ was raised from the dead, and their good works are not counted in any way to them as righteousness. Their works do not and cannot save, of course, but neither do they bring any award to them.

**“That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life [Greek, eonian life].**

**This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that you affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain GOOD works. These things are GOOD and PROFITABLE unto men.”**

**• Titus 3:7–8**

While there is no direct reference to reward in this passage, it is clear that such conscious and deliberate actions in life are “good” [ideal] and “profitable” [beneficial] to everyone involved.