

Good Works

What does God think of the “good works” that others praise us for? Does he approve of all the time and money—not to mention the benevolent spirit—that we contribute to the church? To many the answer is clear. Of course he does! But the Bible takes a different view. Jesus said, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts” (Luke 16:15). God may or may not be pleased with our particular offering. What we think merits a perfectly benevolent divine attitude toward our giving may be nothing but foolish optimism.

To give an acceptable offering to God means, first of all, following his instructions. In the Old Testament, God laid down two requirements for offerings used in the construction of his sanctuary. They had to be voluntary and they had to be valuable and beautiful, in keeping with the dignity of God's house (exodus 25:2-9).

God also looks at our attitude; he sees our motives. Do we put money in the plate because we feel we have to? Only God can make us willing, cheerful givers. But what can we give? Many people today value their time more than almost anything else. But even if we gave all our time to God's service, our hearts could still be elsewhere.

Ask yourself, “what does God value?” Because we are sinners, our works are not automatically precious in his sight. In fact, “all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment” (Isaiah 64:6). But Jesus Christ is precious, supremely precious in God's sight. He is also the supreme offering—the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. If we belong to him, he has made us precious too. “Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you” (Isaiah 43:4).

Through Jesus, whatever we offer—ourselves first of all, but also our time, money, work, praise—becomes a lasting and acceptable work in God's eyes. That kind of offering, that kind of good work, is what lasts.

*The Lord God
made the earth
and the heavens.*

Genesis 2:4

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THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 4

“All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 368

“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 157

“None Other Lamb, None Other Name”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 140

“O Word of God Incarnate”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 33:1-6

Sermon

WOE TO THE DESTROYERS

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 429

Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 358

“For All the Saints”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Schedule Change: There is no Tuesday Bible Study this week or next week. The Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, June 17.