

## Romans 12:1-2

☒ In July 1505, horrific thunderstorm... Luther cried-out “Save me, St. Anne, & I will become a monk.”

sec 1. “Good works are only such as God hath commanded in His holy Word, & not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intention.”

A. When not being taught Scripture by the church, people out of blind zeal & out of a pretense of good intention seek to do some good work to please or better yet to appease God.

1. It is not uncommon that people want to broker a deal with God.

a. I had a family member that was desperate to see a relative make it through a surgery that she made a deal with God— “If he makes it through this surgery, I will start going to church again.”

b. At times we can be critical of this; shouldn't someone worship God the King of Glory because He is worthy of worship & because He commands us to worship Him?

c. Sometimes God uses terrible trials to shake us up / to wake us up from our stupor. God uses a thunderstorm to cause Luther to begin to fear for his life & even for his very soul.

2. What is most important is that we cry-out to God to seek His face in a way that truly pleases Him & that He prescribes in His Scriptures.

a. → Turn to **Romans 9:30-10:13**

☒ The Jews has a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

b. **“Woe to you, scribes & Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea & land to make one proselyte; & when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves” (Mat 23:15).**

✂ It takes zeal to travel on land & sea to make converts.

✂ The JW's do the same as well— their cult tells them to base their hope of salv upon whether or not they can take in converts to their heresy

✂ The more pple they can turn away from the xpity & espec the dotr of the Trinity, the gr'r hope they have of being spared annihilation.

☒ They had zeal & a faith in G the Father yet not in the only begotten Son who...

B. **Romans 10** gives the foundation of how we may be saved

1. sec 2 which follows tells us more clearly what good works are in Gods sight

2. It also gives us reasons why we ought to pursue them.

sec 2. “These good works, done in obedience to G's commandments, are the fruits & evidences of a true & lively faith...”

A. There can be a misconception of the gospel that you make a profession of faith once in your life & you can go about living absolutely any way that you want... including never darkening the footsteps of a church building ever again.

1. That teaching cannot be upheld by Scripture

2. **Mat 3:8-10** **“...bear fruit in keeping with repentance; <sup>9</sup> & do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down & thrown into the fire.”**

B. Your reasonable service: **Romans 12:1-2** “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living & holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good & acceptable & perfect.”

1. **Romans 1-10** gives a magnificent discourse of the doctrine of justification.

2. **Romans 11**- future hope of the Jewish people.

3. **Romans 12-16** tells us how we ought to live as Christians (i.e. good works).

sec 2... “by them [good works] believers manifest their thankfulness,”

→ This is all your reasonable service unto God. If Jesus died for you, shouldn't you then endeavor to live for Him to manifest your thankfulness to Him?

Adversaries can have negative things to say about a church if the people live like everyone else. Section 2 goes on to describe those who shine as lights of the kingdom:

Good works “...strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, & glorify God,...”

A. **Jn 13:35** “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1. You can have great faith in Jesus yet people cannot see that which is in your heart & mind.

2. They can see the tangible ways you carry-out your faith to one another in the church.

B. God wants your good works to glorify Him. **Mat 5:14f** “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> nor does *anyone* light a lamp & put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, & it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, & glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

sec 2 concludes that you are to pursue good works to “...glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.”

A. Turn to **Ephesians 1 & 2**.

B. You are not saved by any of your good works.

1. If you want to be saved by good works, you need personal, perpetual, & perfect obedience.

a. That is impossible for us. We are already born with Adam's sin accounted to us.

→ It is also impossible for us on a personal level as well.

b. It was possible for Adam & Eve in paradise yet they failed.

2. To be saved, you must have forgiveness of sin through Christ offered to you by faith.

By faith you also granted the perfect obedience on your record.

3. **Eph 2:8-10** “For by grace you have been saved through faith; & that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God;* <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

a. Even though our best works lack perfection & they are all tainted by sin, Christ makes them acceptable to God by His intercessory work.

b. By the work of the HS we can bear the “fruit of holiness” (Gal 5:22-23) namely “**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,[&] self-control;**

c. God calls us to bear such good works as “fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, etrnal life.” → **Heb 12:14** Pursue peace with all men, & the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.