

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-20 & 7:15-23 Lord's Day 32.86-87
Singing: 84:1-2 – 313:1-5 – 69:1, 2, 4, 6, 7 – 177:1-3

Intro: Faith in Jesus Christ is the starting point of good works (Gal. 5:6; 1 John 3:3; James 1:14-26)

A. Good works have no bad name in Scripture: *examine Matt. 5:17; Acts 9:36; 1 Tim. 2:10; 1 Tim. 5:10; 1 Tim. 6:18; Titus 2:14; Titus 3:8; Heb. 10:24; 1 P 2:12*

B. Why do 'good works/duty' have a bad name among us?

1. fear of legalism? (Rom. 3:28)

2. fear of exposure? (See q. 87)

THE GOOD OF GOOD WORKS

I. They bring praise and glory to God II. They bring assurance of one's salvation

III. They make us fishers of men

I. They bring praise and glory to God

A. What generally do those ask who were saved? (Ps. 116:12)

1. God's answer in Matt. 5:13-17

2. God's answer in Hebrews 13:15-16

II They bring assurance of one's salvation

A. The case of fruits: Matt. 7:15-23

1. Fruits are like the *fingerprints* of Satan or Holy Spirit

a. outward fruits can be deceitful (vs. 22; 1 Cor. 13:1-3)

b. yet even the smallest fruits are revealing (1 Thess. 1:3-4; Col. 1:4)

B. What are the fruits evidencing saving grace?

1. Jesus' list in Matt. 5:3-9 is most comprehensive and complete

2. The mark of a genuine Christian is not perfection (Phil. 3:12) but the affection of the *heart* (Mark 12:30; Matt. 15:8; Luke 10:27)

a. compare/meditate on Ps. 119:47, 72, 97

C. Be assured: such **delight in the Law** do not exist in the unsaved: Canons I, 12)

III. Good works makes us good fishers of men

A. This is Jesus' own words: Matt. 5:16-17 (1 Peter 3:1-2)

1. The power of love is unequalled to any other power: Rom. 12:19-21

2. The testimony of the early Christians by Roman historian is telling: *they spoke a different language than all others – the language of love*

a. godly conversation is *godly walk and talk*

b. John 13:34-35: *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Brother love is the badge of Christ's disciples
and the leading affection of the soul. (M. Henry)

Whatever of outward service or obedience we render to God or man,
if love is withheld, the law is broken. (F. Meyer)

Love is the queen of all Christian graces. (A. W. Pink)

We are as we love not as we know. (R. Sibbes)