

January 28, 2024 PM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Philippians 3:1-11— “Christ’s Work and Ours”

- A. **Jn 19:30** recorded the last words of Jesus just before **“He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”**
He said, **“It is finished.”**
- B. Why is there still a need for us to do good works since Christ accomplished such a full, complete salvation by His passive and active obedience?

Christ’s work for our salvation is complete, yet God still requires <u>our</u> good works.	I. CHRIST’S WORK FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION II. OUR GOOD WORKS IN OUR SANCTIFICATION
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I. **CHRIST’S WORK FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION**

A. WSC #33. *What is justification?*

Answer: “Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.”

1. This is a legal declaration wherein a believer is declared pardoned (forgiven) and righteous because the righteousness of Christ is imputed (accounted, reckoned, or considered) as to the believer’s record by faith in Christ.
2. It is a completed act of God. It happens when the believer put saving faith in Christ.

B. Christ completed work for our salvation includes His passive and active obedience.

1. Dr. J. Gresham Machen distinguished between these two in a very fine message entitled, *The Active Obedience of Christ*. He wrote, “By His [Christ’s] passive obedience -- that is, by suffering in our stead -- He paid the penalty for us; by His active obedience -- that is, by doing what the law of God required -- He has merited for us the reward.”

C. We cannot add any of our works to Christ’s completed work for our justification.

1. This is why in **Phil 3:4-8**, Paul said, his credentials as a **“Hebrew of the Hebrews”** and his **“righteousness which is in the law”** where all counted as **“rubbish”** in light of Christ’s gospel.
— Paul taught about that imputed righteousness by faith when he wrote that his greatest desire was to be **“found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (v9)**.
2. This is the gospel Martin Luther and the others rediscovered during the Reformation.

II. OUR GOOD WORKS IN OUR SANCTIFICATION

A. WSC #35. *What is sanctification?*

Answer: "Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness."

1. This is ongoing work of God's free grace that comes from the Holy Spirit.
 - a. It is not ever completed in a believer until they either die to be with the Lord or Christ returns.
 - b. Because it is a "work of God's free grace" through the Holy Spirit, we cannot take credit for our sanctification just as we cannot take credit for our justification.
 - c. When we sin, we must take credit for that!
2. The sanctification process of our being "renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and [being] enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness" can also be called bearing good works.

B. Turn to p.927 of your Psalter Hymnals for the WCF 13, "Of Sanctification" sections 2-3

C. Turn to pp 928-929, the WCF 16 "Of Good Works."

- sec 1. "Good works are only such as God hath commanded in his holy Word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intention."
 - a. It is not a good work to practice celibacy for clergy as the Roman Catholic Church commands
 - b. In **1 Cor 7:9**, Paul said that a person ought to marry rather than burn with passion!
- sec 2. "These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: ..." - **Mat 7:17** "every good tree bears good fruit"
 - a. This section goes on to give reasons why believers bear such good works.
 - b. Our good works "adorn the profession of the gospel." They in now way add to the finished work of Christ on behalf of their justification.
- sec 3. "Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ."
- sec 5. "We cannot by our best works merit pardon of sin, or eternal life at the hand of God."
- sec 6. "Notwithstanding, the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in him"

Review, further application, and conclusion: