

Psalm 106; Lord's Day 32
THE FRUITS OF GOOD WORKS

- I. Why the fruits?
 - A. Our good works flow naturally from the Holy Spirit's work of renewing us in Christ's image.
 - 1. Objectively we are united to Christ; it is the tie connecting the branch to the vine so the branch can produce good fruit.
 - 2. Subjectively, we love Christ, so we seek to show our love and to please Him.
 - B. God saves us, not as an end in itself, but unto His glory and praise (I Cor. 6:20; I Peter 2:9).
 - 1. The chief reason for everything God does (including our salvation) is for the glory and praise of Himself.
 - 2. We are clothed with Christ's righteousness, not to roll in the mire of sin, but to show the glory of His name (Titus 2:14).
 - 3. God is honored when His creatures do what He says (Matt. 5:16; I Peter 2:12).
 - C. Because our best works are spotted, they are acceptable to God only because Jesus washed them too.
- II. The chief motive and the chief purpose of good works is to thank God (Ps. 106:47; I Chron. 16:35).
 - A. What is gratitude or thankfulness?
 - 1. In general, it is acknowledging the person from whom we have received benefits.
 - 2. Of what does Christian thankfulness consists?
 - B. Thankfulness is a gift of God.
 - 1. Man's nature is not thankful, willfully denying to see God as the Giver and to give Him praise and thanks (Rom. 1:21).
 - 2. The only way we can see the hand of the Giver is that God changes our heart and opens our eyes (Canons III,IV-11).
 - C. Thankfulness is the expression of the experience of salvation.
 - 1. The joy of being forgiven and delivered moves the believer to fall down before Christ and give Him thanks (Luke 17:16).
 - 2. Free grace shows the proper perspective of good works.
- III. The other fruits of good works.
 - A. By his good works the believer is benefitted by being assured that he has faith.
 - 1. To find in ourselves some desires not found in carnal men is proof of salvation.
 - 2. Therefore, those in whom good works are found must be saved.
 - B. Also others are gained to Christ by our godly conversation (Luke 22:32; I Peter 3:1).
 - 1. First, realize that the gain is Christ's, not ours nor (first) our neighbors.
 - 2. God is pleased to use our good works as an example of faith and gratitude to lead others to Christ.
 - 3. When our life shows salvation, then we are most effective witnesses and we arouse the interest of others.