

Scripture: Matt. 6:1-4; 16-18; 19:27-30; 25:31-46 LD 24.62-63
Singing: 297:1-3 – 228:1-3 – 191:1, 5-7 – 321:1-6

- A. Hear the encourage invitation to warring and weary hearts: Matt. 11:28
Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden: and I will you rest
1. Who does He invite?
 2. To what does He invite us?
- B. Yet in Matt. 11:29-30 Jesus adds a follow up to His invitation to come to Him
1. What is this easy and light yoke we are take up?
 2. Why is being yoked together with Him a life that is both easy and burden?
 - a. because of the Master to whom you will be yoked (vs. 29)
 - b. because love to Him for what He did will motivate you (Gal. 5:6b)
 - c. because following Christ includes a sore battle (Gal. 5:17ff)

Good Works

I. Unacceptable II. Rewarded III. Unavoidable

I. Unacceptable to the Judge

- A. Good works have no bad name in Bible:
1. Spirit places clear emphasis on good works: Matt. 5:17; Acts 9:36; 1 Tim. 5:10; Titus 3:8)
- B. Yet good works have a restricted usefulness in our Christian life
1. They **cannot** enter and **need not** to enter into court of justification!
 - a. two main reasons
 2. Before the Court hangs as it were God's sign: *F-A-I-T-H*
 - a. Is Spirit teaching you to *forsake your sins as well as your good works?*
 - b. Is He teaching you to *take only the Lamb of God offered to you?*

C. Don't scuttle Gospel of *justification by faith only* by mixing in *good works*

II. Good works will be rewarded by God

- A. Good works do matter to God: Matt. 6:1-4; 16-18; 19:27-30; 25:31-46; Ps. 19:11; John 12:26b; Gal. 6:7-9
- B. God revealed He delights in His people's good works: Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:9 Phil. 4:18
- C. Rewards are given graciously instead of based on merit
1. A reward is strictly speaking unnecessary: Phil. 2:12
 2. A reward is strictly speaking also impossible: Is. 64:6
 3. Still God reveals that He will reward them, and it must be out of grace

D. How does God reward the good works of His people?

1. Some in this life already:

a. life and peace acc to Rom. 8:6; Gal. 6:7-8; Ps. 97:11

b. liberty in approaching God in prayer: 1 John 3:20 (contrast Ps. 32:3-4)

c. easy death: tender walk gives abundant entrance (2 Peter 1:10)

2. Rewards in *future life in heaven and on new earth/heaven*

a. Matt. 19:28-30 and 1 Cor. 3:14-15

III. Good works are unavoidable

A. Ironic how Satan hatched the lie that *justification by faith* leads to *more sin*

B. Truth is that *the deeper we look into embrace the Gospel by faith, the more our heart will bear the fruits of grace in good works*

1. Consider John 15:5; Romans 8:14; Titus 2:24

C. This is a truth for self-examination

1. Being justified by faith in Christ *always results in a new life*: Col. 1:6

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4:18

Justification never results from good works,
but justification always results in good works.

Justification and good works are two side of the coin of salvation.

God will never save you from your sins only to leave you in your sins.