

## Not Saved by Works but Judged by Works

All of the following statements are false:

- “If I do enough good works, I can make up for all my sins.”
- “If I make enough sacrifices, God will overlook my sins.”
- “If I go to church often enough, God will save me.”

No one can be saved by his own works.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith; and 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.

What then is the purpose of good works?

Ephesians 2:10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

God made us for good deeds. He expects us to do them.

What if we don't practice good deeds? What if we choose to sin instead?

2 Corinthians 5:10 – For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1 Peter 1:17 – If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth.

Revelation 20:12 – And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Romans 2:5-8 – <sup>5</sup>But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup>who will render to each person according to his deeds: <sup>7</sup>To those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; <sup>8</sup>but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

Did you get the message? We are not saved by our own works, but we will be judged by them.

Consider these passages as well:

- Matthew 7:21-23
- Matthew 25:31-46
- Luke 13:24-30
- Romans 2:12-16
- Ephesians 6:7-8
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

When you stand in the Judgment, you don't merely want your slate wiped clean of sins. You want your slate filled with good works. Your works cannot save you, but you will be judged on your record. What will your record show?

“We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work” (Jesus, John 9:4).