

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Good works are vitally important. "The one who does good is of God" (3 John 11); Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 5:22-23. Souls are at stake! Matthew 5:16; Romans 2:5B-11.
2. If you want to do good works, you can do good works!
3. To develop this truth, let's look at what the scriptures say about, "Every good work."
4. The phrase, "Every good work," *pas agathos ergon*, occupies a prominent place in scripture. It appears eight times in the New Testament. 2 Corinthians 9:8; Colossians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:17; 1 Timothy 5:10; 2 Timothy 2:21; 3:17; Titus 1:16; 3:1.

**DISCUSSION:**

**1. God has prepared us for every good work.**

- A. He's told us what is good. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- B. He provides us with ample opportunities to do good. Matthew 9:36-38; 2 Corinthians 9:8.

**2. We must be ready for every good work.** Titus 3:1.

- A. We must repent.
  - 1) Turn from evil. 2 Timothy 2:20-21; Titus 1:15-16.
  - 2) Turn to good. 1 Timothy 5:9-10.
- B. Study. Colossians 1:9-10.
- C. Pray. Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.
- D. Be encouraged. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17. "Comfort" is *parakaleo*, "encouraging" in Hebrews 10:24-25.
- E. Become stronger. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; Matthew 25:23, 28-29.

**3. We must perform every good work.**

- A. Colossians 1:9-10; 1 Timothy 5:9-10. The point is not that we must do every possible good work, but that we must do every good work we can possibly do.
- B. To all. Galatians 6:10; Luke 6:33-35.
- C. Without neglecting or growing weary. Hebrews 13:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:13; Titus 2:13B-14; 3:8; Revelation 3:15-16, 19.
- D. Wisely, gently. James 3:13.

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. **There are ample opportunities for doing good.** The problem is always, "So much good, so little time;" never, "So much time, so little good."
2. **Don't wait for someone to tell you what to do. Just do it!** 1 Timothy 2:9-10. Be a Tabitha/Dorcas! Acts 9:36. Men too! Titus 2:6-8.
3. **Don't assume other people aren't doing good works.**
4. **Don't condemn people who are doing other good works.**
5. **Prioritize.** Titus 3:14. Saving souls is the most pressing need! We should be far more zealous about saving eternal lives than we are about saving physical lives.
6. **Effectiveness is found at the grass roots level.** Acts 8:4.
7. **To whom much is given, much is expected.** 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
8. **It's more than worth it.** 1 Corinthians 15:58.
  - A. In time. 1 Peter 3:10-11A.
  - B. In eternity. Romans 2:5B-11; Matthew 5:16.

**CONCLUSION:** To paraphrase Hamilton, "Goodness is love in action, love with its hand to the plow, love with the burden on its back, love following the footsteps of Jesus, He who went about continually doing good." Brethren, let's put love in action and be zealous for every good work.