

New City Catechism

Question 34: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

Answer: Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-12

A lot of people believe that if we are good enough—if the good things we do outweigh the bad things we do—then we get to go to heaven when we die. Last week, our question addressed this error. We can't do anything to earn our salvation (thank God!). If that is true, then what role do good works and obedience to God's Word have in our lives? What do you think?

Today's Q&A answers this question. It tells us of two very important roles good works and obedience play in a believer's life. Read the Q&A and commit it to memory.

The apostle Paul had traveled to the city of Thessalonica to preach the gospel. In his short time, many people put their faith in Jesus and a church was established. Paul had to leave, but sent a letter back to his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage them. Let's see what we can learn about these believers.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-6.

- Why do you think Paul thanks God when he remembers the Thessalonians?
- What 3 things does Paul specifically remember about them? (v.3: *their work, labor and steadfastness, or endurance*)
- Paul shares 3 reasons for their work, labor and endurance what are they? (*faith, love and hope in Jesus*)
- What else do we learn about their behavior after becoming believers? (v.6)

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It is clear that the Thessalonians were changed because of their newfound faith. They were motivated by their faith, feeling love and gratitude for Christ's sacrifice. But there is nothing here that speaks of them doing the things they did to try to earn salvation for themselves.

Now let's look at what the apostle Peter says to us as believers in Christ.

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12

- Make a list of what Peter says we are as believers in Christ in this passage. (v.9-10)
- How should people God chose for royalty behave according to verse 11?
- According to v.12 why should we behave this way?

Read Matthew 5:14-16

Pray that your family would be a city on a hill. Pray for areas of your lives that need to reflect more obedience and gratitude.

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Commentary, Video, and Prayer as you see fit.

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