



Freedom from Dead Good Works

- We will be teaching today from the bible.
- I'm using the Amplified version. Of course - you can use the version that you prefer.
- The bible is the only real truth.
- It is the inspired word of God.
- God's truth comes to us by **revelation** from the Holy Spirit as we meditate on His word.



Freedom from Dead Good Works

- Firstly, let us examine what are dead good works
- **Dead good works** could be defined as any activity which seeks to gain God's approval in order to secure blessing or to secure one's place in heaven.
- It is all about your motivation.
- Dead good works are an irrelevance because **we cannot earn our way into heaven**, and we cannot pay God back for our salvation.



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- Why are they called “Dead good works”.
- It is all about death. So, what is death?
- The consequence or penalty of sin is death.
- We are not talking about death of the body here – rather, we are talking about a spiritual condition that separates us from our creator.
- It comes about when we do anything which does not conform to His will.
- We deny ourselves His blessings.



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- In Deuteronomy chapter 30 verse 19 it says
- *¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you **life and death**, the **blessings and the curses**; therefore, **choose life**, that you and your descendants may live.*
- **Doing things God's way invites blessing, which is life.**
- Refusing to do things God's way in a specific area of our lives is disobedience.
- It has a consequence which involves being cut off from God's blessing.
- **The choice is yours.**



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- What then is the key. How do we inherit salvation. If it is not by working at it, then how?
- Scripture tells us in John 3:16
- *For **God so** greatly **loved** and dearly prized **the world** that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) **Son**, **so** that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.*
- So does that mean that if you merely believe in the existence God or believe in Jesus that you have everlasting life.
- That's only part of it.



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- The truth is that God is a holy God, and we have all made mistakes which cause us to be separated from His holy presence.
- God has clearly shown in the Bible that there is a consequence when we do not do things His way and that consequence involves loss of blessing.
- This consequence is not imposed by God.
- It happens automatically.
- He is not waiting to catch us out. On the contrary he has provided a remedy.
- **The remedy is Jesus.**
- To help understand how this process works, imagine you are driving a car too fast to take a corner. You skid off the road and crash, injuring yourself and wrecking the car.
- God did not impose a penalty upon you. You caused the accident by driving unsafely, and you pay the price.



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- We need a means by which the penalty for our sins can be cancelled out.
- That is what the cross is all about. Jesus allowed himself to be scourged and crucified to take our spiritual death upon himself.
- Because he loves us, he offered himself as a complete atonement for that which separated us from our heavenly Father.
- He defeated death, by allowing Himself to be crucified, dead and buried.
- But He rose again and in doing so, He defeated death, our enemy and the kingdom of darkness.
- He replaced evil with love.



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- **Jesus completely paid our sin debt.**
- - that is,
- the sins that we've already committed
- the sins that we commit today
- and those we commit in the future
- **All of our sins already paid for!.**
- The debt is already paid and if we accept that **He has paid the price**, and if **we invite Him to take His rightful place in our lives**, we will be saved .
- It is a free gift and no amount of working to gain God's approval will make any difference.
- God already loves us. He showed how much he loved us by giving us Jesus as our Redeemer.



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- It is not about us – It is all about **JESUS**.
- In the book of John chapter 14 it says
- *⁶ Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.*
- “**Except through me**” – not through any man, or church, or religion, or through our own good works, but **by Him**.
- If we reject what Jesus has done in love for us. we will be eternally lost, separated from our creator and His blessings for all eternity.
- When we accept the person of Jesus and what he has done for us we will be saved.



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- We call that faith.
- The bible makes it clear in the book of Ephesians chapter 2, verses 8 , 9 and 10.
- ⁸ *For it is by **free grace** (God's unmerited favour) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) **through [your] faith.** And this [salvation] is **not of yourselves** [of your own doing, it came **not through your own striving**], but it is the gift of God;*



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- ***⁹ Not because of works*** [not the fulfilment of the ***Law's*** demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so ***no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.***]



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- *¹⁰ For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].*



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- Verse 8 introduces us to the idea that it's all about God's **GRACE**.
- God provided for us a way to come back into his presence and to have a personal relationship with him through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **He constantly writes us on and does not reject us.**
- He didn't insist that we should attain to any particular standard in order to be acceptable to him.
- He doesn't require us to earn our salvation.
- All he asks is that we make an adequate response to the offer of the free gift of salvation, through what Jesus has done.



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- The faith that is talked about here in verse 8 involves our **trusting in and relying on** the fact Jesus completely paid the price for our sin – **our sin dept.**
- There is nothing more that we can do, other than accept the fact.
- We trust in the fact that what Jesus has done has made us acceptable to our heavenly Father.
- There is nothing that we can add to that to make ourselves more acceptable.
- **Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.**



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- Verse 9 Clearly it tells us that it is **not by our own good works**.
- Neither is it by satisfying **the Law**. The Law being all the dos and don'ts listed in the Ten Commandments and in something like 600 other instructions.
- We are not trying to satisfy the Law in order to make ourselves acceptable to God – in fact **it is impossible to do so**.
- In Him we are set free from the Law of Sin and Death. (Romans 8:2).
- Jesus is the fulfilment of the Law. (Matthew 5:17)



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- We do not earn righteous points by our own good works or by being a good person.
- We become righteous when we accept the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- As a Christian our righteousness is not earned. We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 3:22
*Namely, the **righteousness** of God which comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [And it is meant] for all who believe.*
- See my teaching on Imputed Righteousness. (<https://eleos.online>)
- In Verse 10 we see that God has already prepared good works for us to do.



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- Sadly
- What passes for much of the Christian church today has its members under **religious bondage**. They are in **performance bondage** trying to be good enough to be acceptable to God. This is AntiChrist (alternate) doctrine – and it is **FALSE**.
- Some people pride themselves on living a good clean life and they keep all the rules and statutes of their chosen church denomination or organisation.
- They imagine that when they arrive at the Pearly Gates and are met by Saint Peter, he will review their life and weigh the good and the bad.
- Hopefully, he will be kind, overlooking their mistakes and allow them into heaven.
- That is not how it will be.



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- It is delusion
- Some people will make a name for themselves prophesying, casting out demons and doing mighty works.
- **But if their motives are wrong** - if they want to be recognised for their own works (their ministries) rather than quietly bringing glory to the Lord Jesus, who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, their Creator - they will be disqualified and disowned.
- Matthew 7: 21 to 23
- *²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.*
- *²² Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?*
- *²³ And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].*



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- It is an arrogance to think that any good work that we dream up will make us more acceptable to God.
- It is an arrogance to think that we can dictate to God what makes us acceptable.
- God made a way for us to come into His presence and offers it to us as a free gift.
- What we do about the **Lord Jesus** decides where we spend eternity.
- It is not what **we** do, **but what Jesus did**.
- By accepting that He alone paid the price, we will be saved.
- In response we invite Him into our hearts, and we become a new creation, Spiritually alive in Christ.



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- Finally Christian
- **That's you, who have asked the Lord Jesus to come into your heart.**
- You are living by FAITH and not by WORKS.
- You are not trying to be good enough to make yourself acceptable.
- Just know that you are already complete in Him.
- Colossians 2:10
- *¹⁰ And you are **in Him**, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full **spiritual stature**]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].*



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- Caution
- Knowing that Jesus has paid for all our sins does not give us licence to live just how we want.
- As a Christian you are a “New Creation” – Spiritually alive in Him.
- You have the mind of Christ and a new nature, a new heart.
- You are “in Christ” and He has overcome the world – therefore you have overcome the world (the kingdom of darkness).
- You are free to live **life** in a way that is honouring to our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ.



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- We can choose to live in the same old way – the way we used to live in the “world”
- Or, because we are free, we can choose to live according to who we have become, in Christ.
- The choice is ours.
- If we choose God’s way, the Holy Spirit will work with us transforming us into the likeness of Jesus.



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- In Philippians Chapter 1 it says:
- *⁶ And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.*
- **1 John 3:2 (English Standard Version - ESV)**
- *"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."*



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- Thank you for listening to the good news.
- You can view a full spectrum of my teaching at
 - <https://eleos.online>