

What Does the Bible Say About Works?

Part 1

A. Salvation is by faith

- **Romans 3:20, 27, 28** (ergon [*air'-gon*] —G204); Read v.19-31

- **Romans 4:2, 6** (ergon); Read v.1-8

- **Romans 9:32**—“believes”→hama'amin, hiphil participle form of aman—H539 (ergon); Read v.30-33

- **Galatians 2:16; 3:2, 5, 10** (ergon); Read 2:15-3:12

- **Ephesians 2:9, 10** (ergon); Read v.8-10

B. If we are saved by faith, then where do works fit in?

1. Good works vs. bad works

a. Your works can prove that you are a believer

- **Psalm 15:2**—Who will abide in the kingdom? V.2—“Walking” and “speaking” are participles (pa'al—H6466); Read v.1-2

- **John 6:28-29**—V.29: “Believe”→pisteuo [*pis-too'-oh*]—G4100 is the Greek equivalent to he'emin (28-ergazomai [*air-gahd'-zo-my*]—G2038 and 28 and 29-ergon); Read v.25-30

- **John 8:39**—What are the works of Abraham? **Genesis 15:6 and 26:5** (ergon)

- **Philippians 2:12-13**—V.12-“Work out”→katergazomoi [*kat-er-ghad'-zo-my*]—G2716—perform, do achieve, carry out, to finish; V.13-“to will”→thelo—G2309 = chaphets –H2656, used in Psalm 1:2 as “delight” (energeo [*en-air-gae'-oh*]—G1754)

- **1 Thessalonians 2:13**—The word of truth (**Psalm 119:142**, as opposed to the word of men) effectively works in those who are believing (energeo)

- **1 Timothy 6:18**—Good works help to build your foundation—**1 Corinthians 3:11-15** (ergon); Read v.18-19

- **2 Timothy 3:17**—thoroughly equipped (exartizo [*ex-ar-teed'-zoh*]—G1822—to furnish perfectly) for every good work (ergon); Read v.16-17

- **Titus 2:7, 14; 3:14**—We should be a pattern and zealous for good works (ergon); Read v.2:7-14 and 3:14

- **Hebrews 11:33**—Those who had faith worked righteousness (ergazomai)

- **James 1:25**—“Looks into”→parakypso [*par-ah-koop'-toh*]—G3879—stoop down and look closely; Why will the man who does the Law be blessed? **Deuteronomy 28:1-2** (ergon); Read v.24-25

- **James 2:14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26**—“dead”→nekros—G3498—destitute of force or power, inactive, inoperative (ergon); Read v.14-26

- **1 John 3:8, 18**—Our love is shown not through words, but through works and truth (Torah) (ergon)

b. Your works can prove that you are wicked

Wicked works:

(1) *Are a snare*—**Psalm 9:16** (po'al—H6467)

(2) *Make you a hypocrite*—**Matthew 23:3, 5** (ergon); Read v.1-5

(3) *Help you “fit in” to the world*—**John 7:7** (ergon)—Ties to **1 Samuel 8:7**

Part 2

(4) *Are called “works of darkness”*—**Romans 13:12** (v.11-14) and **Ephesians 5:11** (v.8-11) (ergon)

(5) *Are called “works of the flesh”*—**Galatians 5:19** (ergon); Read v.19-21—Why would this warning be given to believers if it wasn't possible for them to inherit the Kingdom of God? **Revelation 21:7** and **1 John 5:2-5**

(6) *Make you partial*—**James 2:9** (ergazomai); Read v.8-9

c. Those who work lawlessness are called workers of iniquity

Characteristics of workers of iniquity include the following:

(1) *Those who the LORD hates*—**Psalm 5:5**—“boastful”→hol'lim, from hallal—H1984, “the praising ones”, or the ones who praise themselves

(2) *Those who have no knowledge*—**Psalm 14:4**

(3) *Those who are hypocrites*—**Psalm 28:3**

(4) *Those who boast in themselves*—**Psalm 94:4**—“boast in themselves”→hitpa'el form of amar—H559, “cause themselves to say”, making a conscious choice

(5) *Those who turn aside to their own ways*—**Psalm 125:5**—If someone turns aside to crooked ways, what did they turn from? (6) *Those who are doomed to destruction*—**Proverbs 10:29** (All words are pa'al)

- These characteristics bring more clarity and meaning to what Messiah was talking about in **Matthew 7:23** (ergazomai) and **Luke 13:27** (ergates [air-gah'-tace]—G2040).

- The solution? **Psalm 119:3**—do (work) no iniquity (pa'al)

2. We are judged by our works

- **Psalm 28:4** (v.4 “deeds”—po'al; v.4 “endeavors”—ma'alal; v.4 “work” and v.5 “operation”—ma'aseh; v.5 “work”—pelluah H6468); Read v.3-5

- **Proverbs 24:12** (po'al)

- **Ecclesiastes 12:14**—“matter”→davar—H1697 (ma'aseh); Read v.13-14

- **Romans 2:6, 7, 10, and 15**—V.7—“doing good” is actually “a good work” (v.2, 6, and 7—ergon; v.10—ergazomai); Read v.5-11

- **2 Corinthians 11:13, 15** (v.13—ergates; v.15—ergon); v.12-15

- **Revelation 20:12-13 and 22:12**—“to render to each man as his work shall be” (ergon)

3. A servant does the work of his master

a. What does it mean to “serve” other gods?

Serving other gods means:

(1) To do according to *their* works—**Exodus 23:24** (Read 23-24); **Leviticus 18:3** (Read 1-5); **Psalm 106:35, 39** (Read 34-39) (“works” and “doings”—ma’aseh—H4639; “deeds”—ma’alal); **2 Kings 17:16** (avad)

(2) To worship them—**Deuteronomy 30:17** (Read 15-20) (avad)

(3) To forsake the LORD—**Joshua 24:16** (Read 16-22); **Judges 2:7, 11, 13**; **1 Kings 9:6, 9** (Read 6-9) (avad); **1 Samuel 8:8** (Read 7-8) (ma’aseh)

- What does it mean to “forsake the LORD”? **Jeremiah 16:11** (Read 10-13) (avad)

Part 3

b. God wants us to serve Him and Him alone

How do we “serve” God?

(1) By fearing Him and walking in all His ways—**Deuteronomy 10:12** (Read 12-17) (avad); **Psalm 111:7**—“sure”—from aman, which means it is going to happen—**Genesis 15:6** (Read 7-9) (ma’aseh); **2 Timothy 2:15** (Read 14-19) (ergates); **Acts 24:14** (latreuo [la-troo’-oh]—G3000)

(2) By not serving Him like other gods are served—**Deuteronomy 12:2, 30** (Read 1-4 and 28-32); **2 Kings 17:33, 35, 41**—The priest that was sent was supposed to teach the people the correct instructions of the LORD—**Malachi 2:7** (Read 24-40) (avad)

c. Messiah talks about true servants

- **Luke 12:43, 45, 46, and 47**—“faithful”→pistos—G4103 is equivalent to ne’eman, a niphal participle form of “aman”, which means “being faithful”; V.46—“unbelievers”→apistos [ahp’-is-tohs]—G571—“without faith” (Read 42-48) (doulos [doo’-lahs]—G1401)

- **Revelation 1:1**—The servants of God receive God’s correction (chapters 2 and 3), but also are characterized by their faith AND keeping of commandments—**12:17** and **14:12** (doulos)

- **Matthew 9:37**—Why are there few workers? (1) People don’t know the times of their Master’s coming—**1 Thessalonians 5:1-4** and (2) People are apathetic about the Master’s coming—**2 Peter 3:1-9** (ergates)

4. Our works reflect our spiritual state

- **Jeremiah 23:22**—The false prophets are so convincing, they would be able to turn people to the LORD if they prophesied His words (Read 16-22) (ma’alal)

- **John 3:19, 20, 21**—The continuous action of our deeds reflect whether we have faith or not (ergon)

- **Revelation 2:2, 5, 6, 19, 22, 23, 26**—The fact that the LORD is asking them to repent is a reflection on their spiritual state (ergon)

- **Revelation 16:11**—These people have a debased or “reprobate” mind (ergon)

- **Acts 26:20**—Ties back to **Ecclesiastes 12:13** (ergon)

- **CONCLUSION**—**Ezekiel 18:24** and **Matthew 7:21-23**