

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Midweek Activities

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6:00-6:25 Supper

6:30-6:50 Prayer Meeting in Fellowship Hall

6:50-7:30 Classes

- **American Gospel:** Fellowship Hall
- **To God's Glory:** Adult Sunday School Room
- **KidsQuest:** Small Parlor (Old Building)

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Presbyterianism 101

ALL THINGS TO GOD'S GLORY:  
Good Works  
(WCF 16)

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JSA: Heart of the Christian Life

- **Principal Benefits of Effectual Calling:**  
Justification, Adoption, and Sanctification
- **Repentance:** integral to the Christian life; there is no saving faith without Repentance
- **Good Works:** flow out of salvation necessarily; the outcome of faith and necessary in salvation

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**Eph. 2:8-10**, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

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### JSA: Heart of the Christian Life

- **Principal Benefits of Effectual Calling:** Justification, Adoption, and Sanctification
- **Repentance:** integral to the Christian life; there is no saving faith without Repentance
- **Good Works:** flow out of salvation necessarily; the outcome of faith and necessary in salvation, yet good works contribute nothing to our salvation or God's love

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### Good Works Defined (16.1)

*Good works are only such as God hath commanded in His holy Word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretence of good intention.*

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## Good Works Defined (16.1)

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- **God determines, declares, defines good works:** we do not make up or figure out or presume re: good works
  - Scripture Alone is the perfect rule of faith, practice
  - “God works are God-Works”: i.e. done in obedience to God

**Romans 10:2-3**, *For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

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## Good Works Defined (16.1)

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  - Scripture Alone is the perfect rule of faith, practice
  - “God works are God-Works”: i.e. done in obedience to God

• **Good works spring from faith and love**  
**Heb. 11:6**, *without faith it is impossible to please God*

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## Value of Good Works (16.2)

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*These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the Gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto; that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.*

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## Value of Good Works (16.2)

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- **Fruit of “lively faith”**
  - New nature is essential to salvation and that new nature is alive, living active
  - Good works are not pre-requisite for divine favor
- **Good works adorn the profession of the gospel**
- **Christians grow in their experience of God's grace**

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## Source of Good Works (16.3)

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*Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ. And that they may be enabled thereunto, besides the graces they have already received, there is required an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will and to do of His good pleasure: yet are they not hereupon to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty, unless upon a special motion of the Spirit; but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.*

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## Source of Good Works (16.3)

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- **Wholly from the Spirit of Christ**
    - Completely dependent on God after salvation too
    - Means of grace vital for continuing in holiness
- Philippians 2:12-13**, *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

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**2P1:5-8**, *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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### Source of Good Works (16.3)

- **Wholly from the Spirit of Christ**
- **Personal Obligation & Involvement**
  - Christ does not save so folks can go back into slavery to sin
  - Holy Spirit works through the word to stir the Christian to new obedience
  - We do not simply wait for special urging from the Spirit to do our Christian duty

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### Super Good Works? (16.4)

*They, who in their obedience attain to the greatest height which is possible in this life, are so far from being able to supererogate, and to do more than God requires, as that they fall short of much which in duty they are bound to do.*

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## Super Good Works? (16.4)

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- **Romanism:** works that are not commanded explicitly, but go beyond what God demands (e.g. give all money away, live celibate life, etc.)
- **Sinless perfection is not possible:** we cannot do more than required, we cannot even do what *is* required  
“Jesus alone reaches the heights of good works and laid down his life for those who fail in their duties but have faith in the Saviour” - Chad Van Dixhoorn

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**Neh. 13:22,** *Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.*

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## Merit of Good Works (16.5)

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*We cannot, by our best works, merit pardon of sin, or eternal life at the hand of God, by reason of the great disproportion that is between them and the glory to come; and the infinite distance that is between us and God, whom, by them, we can neither profit, nor satisfy for the debt of our former sins, but when we have done all we can, we have done but our duty, and are unprofitable servants; and because, as they are good, they proceed from His Spirit; and as they are wrought by us, they are defiled, and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection, that they cannot endure the severity of God's judgment.*

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## Merit of Good Works (16.5)

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- **God is owed ALL our obedience**
- **Contrast:** Value of Eternity vs. works done in time?
  - Cf. Adam and the Covenant of Works
  - Gracious element to the Covenant of Works
- **All our Works are imperfect and the result of the Spirit's work**

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

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## Acceptance of Good Works (16.6)

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*Yet notwithstanding, the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in Him, not as though they were in this life wholly unblamable and unreproveable in God's sight; but that He, looking upon them in His Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections*

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## Acceptance of Good Works (16.6)

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- **How can our Good Works be accepted?** They are "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus" (1P2:4-5)
- **God promises to reward all His saints**

**Hebrews 6:10**, *For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.*

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### Good Works of the Wicked (16.7)

*Works done by unregenerate men, although, for the matter of them, they may be things which God commands, and of good use both to themselves and others: yet, because they proceed not from a heart purified by faith; nor are done in a right manner according to the Word; nor to a right end, the glory of God; they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, or make a man meet to receive grace from God. And yet, their neglect of them is more sinful, and displeasing unto God.*

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### Good Works of the Wicked (16.7)

- **Wicked people can do commendable things**
- **All the deeds of the ungodly are ungodly**
  - Components of a Good work
    - Motive:
    - Standard:
    - Purpose:
  - Wicked always aimed at pleasing, promoting themselves
  - The “manner” of doing something is just as important as the “matter” of what is done.

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### Good Works of the Wicked (16.7)

- **Wicked people can do commendable things**
  - **All the deeds of the ungodly are ungodly**
  - **Doubly Doomed:** the wicked are bound to do what God requires and are condemned for their lack of it performance of it
- Titus 1:15**, *To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.*

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