

Sunday, March 26, 2023

## Good Works

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Sliver vs Beam

– Matthew 15:1-2 (NKJV)

– 1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying,

– 2 “Why do Your disciples **transgress the tradition** of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

• Matthew 15:3-9 (NKJV)

• 3 He answered and said to them, “Why do you also **transgress the commandment of God** because of **your tradition**? 4 For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 5 But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”—6 then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their **lips**, But **their heart is far from Me**. 9 And **in vain they worship Me**, Teaching as doctrines **the commandments of men**.’ ”

– Matthew 15:10-11 (NKJV)

– 10 When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear and understand: **11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.**”

– Matthew 15:15-20 (NKJV)

– 15 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “Explain this parable to us.” 16 So Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

• Matthew 15:3-9 (v5) **But you say**, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”—6 then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

**–But you say = works of the flesh; all that can be expected from an unregenerate heart**

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– James 3:10-12 (NKJV)

– 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

•and we need not look at other religions to find faults, but recognize in ourselves the "beam in our eyes" and apply the word of God in our lives: Hebrews 5:12-14 (NKJV)

• 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

• 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

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- Titus 3:8 (NKJV)

- 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, 1that those who have believed in God 2should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

- good: beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life, and hence praiseworthy; morally good, noble

- Proverbs 24:13-14 (NKJV)

- 13 My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste;

- 14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.

•honey is good = pleasant to the taste and beneficial for nourishment; the knowledge of wisdom rejoices the heart and gives hope of inheritance

- Galatians 5:19-26 (NKJV)

- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

- 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. fruit(of the Spirit) = deed ; works(of the flesh) = act (deed) - something that people do or cause to happen.

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- Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.