

MAY OUR GODLINESS RESULT IN GOOD WORKS

Introduction

- A. The question “now what?” is one of life’s most important questions. Unfortunately, many who have sought salvation from sin may not understand what salvation is for.
- B. Like ancient Israel, we’ve been rescued from “Egypt,” but we don’t have a good grasp of the goal God had in mind when He set us free.

I. THE PAST WE’VE BEEN DELIVERED FROM

- A. It’s not a good situation if the Christian has “forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins” (2 Pt. 1:9).
- B. Now that we follow Christ, the dominant note in our lives should be gratitude: “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered” (Rom. 6:17).
- C. Yet we must not define ourselves solely in terms of the things we don’t do anymore.

II. THE FUTURE WE’RE GOING TOWARD

- A. Nature abhors a vacuum, as they say, and the gospel was meant to do more than subtract the evil from our lives (Lk. 11:24-26). The question is, why did God want certain things removed from our lives and what does He now want to put in their place? We are not what we used to be, *but what comes next?*
- B. Having forgiven us, God wants us to be “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pt. 1:4). He plans to repair sin’s damage (“corruption”) and transform us into people who think and act as creatures made in His image - 2 Cor. 3:18.
- C. In fact, He plans to make us into people who have the same character as His Son, Jesus Christ - Rom. 8:29.

III. THE WORK WE’RE TO DO IN THE PRESENT

- A. Christians are not just people who are learning a new *character* — our *conduct* is involved as well.
- B. “As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10).
- C. “Let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful” (Tit. 3:14).
- D. If we intend to increase our good works, it’s helpful to make specific plans. Rather than a vague “we need to do better,” it’s better to set some specific goals — big enough to challenge us, but small enough to be doable.

Conclusion

- A. Paul goes so far as to say that “we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Eph. 2:10).
- B. May we, no less than Dorcas, be “full of good works and charitable deeds” (Ac. 9:36).
- C. And may we do those good works in such a way that God receives the glory - Mt. 5:16.

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com + AreYouaChristian.com