

Good Works

- *For **we are His workmanship***, created in Christ Jesus **for good works***, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10*
- Workmanship = The Product God Produced
- We are the product God produced.
- We were created in Christ Jesus (the church)
- Our Role is to produce the good works He prepared beforehand.

Prepared Beforehand

- a single Greek word: “*Ready in advance,*” “*prepared in advance,*” and “*determined/purposed in advance.*”
- **NOT** a good work if we devised it,
- **MUST** be a good work He prepared!

Good Works

- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17*
- Since **All Scripture** makes **the man of God complete** there is **NOTHING** more!

Good Works

- *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which **God has prepared** for those who love Him." 10 But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** 1Cor. 2:9-10*
- Without the inspiration of God, it is unprofitable
- No eye, ear or imagination of man can find the things God has prepared without inspiration!
- **If the Holy Spirit did not reveal them in the books of the NT then God did not prepare them!**

Being Fruitful in **EVERY** Good Work

- *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that **you may be filled with the knowledge of His will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may **walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK** and increasing in the knowledge of God; Col 1:9-10*
- Can't be fruitful in every good work without the **knowledge of His will**.
- Can't know His will outside of the Scriptures
- If it is not in the Scriptures:
- It is not God's will
- It is not a good work

The Success of Joshua

*Only be strong and very courageous, that you **may observe to do according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; **do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left**, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law **shall not depart from your mouth**, but you shall **meditate in it day and night**, that you **may observe to do according to all that is written in it**. For then you will **make your way prosperous**, and then you will **have good success**. Josh 1:8*

Good Works

- *For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God **prepared beforehand** that we should **walk in THEM**. Eph. 2:10*
- The good works God revealed in Scripture:
- *Evangelism – The Book of Acts*
- *Benevolence – 1Cor. 16:1-2*
- *Edification – Eph 4:11-14*

Benevolence

- Did the church under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit through the apostles care for the physical needs of others?
- *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. 1Cor. 16:1-4*
- Did the church ONLY take care of saints?

English Grammar - Antecedents

- The Holy Spirit made it very clear in the early days of the church as revealed in the book of Acts.
- He speaks very specifically regarding those who were in the church and those who were outside.
- In order to see these things clearly we have to understand something about grammar.
- In grammar, **an antecedent** is an expression (**word, phrase, clause, sentence**, etc.) that **gives its meaning** to a **pro-form (pronoun, pro-verb, pro-adverb, etc.)**. [1] A **proform** takes its **meaning** from its **antecedent**, e.g. **Ava** arrived late because traffic held **her** up.

You, They and Them

- 37 Now when they heard (this,) they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? 38 And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, (even) as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him.

Acts 2:37-39

- Unbelievers Hearing the Word

The Church Begins

- *And with many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation. 41 They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added (unto them) in that day about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Acts 2:40-42*
- Changed from the lost hearing the gospel to the saved who are members of the church
- *And great fear came upon the whole church, Acts 5:11*

You, They, and Them

- And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 and they sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all, according as any man had need. 46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread at home, they took their food with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved. Acts 2:44-47
- A clear distinction between “*those that believed*” “*all the people*” and “**those that were saved**”

Nouns & Antecedents

- And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul: and not one (of them) said that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles their witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 For neither was there among them any that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, Acts 4:32-37
- Only the Multitude of those who believed.

Nouns & Antecedents

- *35 and laid them at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto each, according as any one had need. 36 And Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas (which is, being interpreted, Son of exhortation), a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race, 37 having a field, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*
Acts 4:35-37

Nouns & Antecedents

- Acts 5:11-14 And great fear came **upon the whole church**, and **upon all that heard these things**. 12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 **But of the rest durst no man join himself to them:** howbeit the people magnified them; 14 and **believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of them and women;**

Nouns & Antecedents

- Acts 6:1-4 1 Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring of the Grecian Jews against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. 2 And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not fit that we should forsake the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Look ye out therefore, brethren, from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will continue stedfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word.

Nouns & Antecedents

- *And one of them named Agabus stood up and {began} to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius. 29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send {a contribution} for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. 30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders. Acts 11:28-30*
- Luke is consistent in Acts. No example of the church helping those in the world.

The Collection for the “Saints”

- *Now concerning **the collection for the saints**, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 2 On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come. 3 And when I arrive, whomever you may approve, I shall send them with letters **to carry your gift to Jerusalem;** 1
Cor 16:1-3*

The Collection for the “saints”

- *but now, I am going to Jerusalem **serving the saints**. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to **make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem**. 27 Yes, they were pleased {to do so,} and **they are indebted to them**. For if **the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things**, they are **indebted to minister to them also in material things**. 28 Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. Rom 15:25-28*

Service Acceptable to Saints

- *Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, 31 that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and {that} my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; Rom 15:30-31*

The Antecedent to “You”

- As we look at the Second Corinthian letter, there are many pronouns. When not defined in context the *you* is the church:
- *1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Cor 1:1-2*

- Moreover, **brethren**, we make known to **you** the grace of God which hath been given in the **churches of Macedonia**; 2 how that in much proof of affliction the abundance of **their joy** and **their deep poverty** abounded unto the riches of **their liberality**. 3 For according to **their power**, I bear witness, yea **and beyond their power**, (**they gave**) of their own accord, 4 beseeching us with much entreaty in regard of this grace and the fellowship **in the ministering to the saints**: 5 and (this), not as we had hoped, but first **they gave their own selves to the Lord, and to us through the will of God.** 2 Cor 8:1-5

Saints in Jerusalem and in Corinth

- *For (I say) not (this) that others may be eased (and) ye distressed; 14 but by equality: your abundance (being a supply) at this present time for their want, that their abundance also may become (a supply) for your want; that there may be equality: 2
Cor 8:13-14 13*

“You” is the church in Corinth

Now *concerning the ministering to the saints*, it is superfluous for me to write to **you**; 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of **you** to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and **your** zeal has stirred up the majority. 3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of **you** should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, **you** may be ready; 4 lest if some Macedonians come with me and find **you** unprepared, we (not to mention **you**!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. 2 Cor 9:1-4

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- 2 Cor 9:12-15 12 For **the** ministration of this service not only filleth up the measure of the wants of the saints, but abounds also through **many thanksgivings** unto God; 13 seeing that through the proving (of **you**) by this ministration they glorify God for the obedience of **your** confession unto the gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of (your) contribution unto them and **unto all**; 14 while they **themselves** also, with supplication on your behalf, long after **you** by reason of the exceeding grace of God in **you**. 15 Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

Who is the “all”

- Some affirm the “**all**” includes unbelievers.
- But the entire context of the 8th and 9th chapters is believers.
- Believers give and believers receive.
- Believers gave the thank givings.
- Where can we insert unbelievers?
- Can “**all**” undo all that has been said up to this point?

- *I go unto Jerusalem, **ministering unto the saints.***
Rom 15:25
- *a certain contribution **for the poor among the saints that are at Jerusalem.*** *Rom 15:26*
- *ministration which (I have) for Jerusalem may be **acceptable to the saints;*** *Rom 15:31*
- *concerning the **collection for the saints,*** *1 Cor 16:1*
- *in regard of this grace and **the fellowship in the ministering to the saints:*** *2 Cor 8:4*
- *as touching **the ministering to the saints,*** *2 Cor 9:1*
- *For the ministration of this service not only fills up the measure **of the wants of the saints,** but abounds also **through many thanksgivings** unto God; *2 Cor 9:12**

If Paul said it was for Saints

- What would brethren think if he kept it himself?
- What if he bought things for the wealthy
- What if he gave it to sinners?
- Once it was given for the saints, it must be used for the saints.
- There is no other examples in the Scriptures.
- No other passage to use.
- Only a good work for the church to give to needy saints. God prepared beforehand.