

# Sermon Study Guide – October 19, 2025

Greetings!

We're continuing our series about the church. In the past few weeks I've proposed a definition of the church based on taking the whole of the Bible into consideration: The Church is

- The people of God (who are we?)
- On the mission of God (what are we doing?)
- Becoming the image of God in Christ (where are we going?)
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit (how do we do it?)

This week we're looking more into the mission, the "what" of church by looking at "good works" which have gotten a bad reputation unfairly in the church's history. The New Testament frequently calls us to be ready to do good works. How do we develop a community that rightly integrates grace and good works?

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## Church is the Mission of Grace and Good Works

**OT: Micah 6:6-8**

**6** "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

**7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

**8** He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**NT: Ephesians 2:1-10**

**2:1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## Outline

**Introduction:** Grace Turned Upside Down

**Definition**

**Foundation 1:** Saved by Grace through Faith

**Foundation 2:** Saved for good works

**Foundation 3:** Raised to the heavenly places

**Implication (So what?):** Grace establishes good works. Church is to be a people of grace whose good works bring grace to the world.

**Application (Now What?):**

## Study Questions

**Foundations: What?**

1. What does "grace" mean?
2. Is "faith" our belief, or the faithfulness of Jesus Christ? Are we saved by our faith commitment, or by the work of Jesus?
3. What are the good works we are saved for?
4. What's the link between sitting with Christ in heavenly places as opposed to following the "prince of the power of the air", and the good works we are to do?

**Implications: So What?**

5. What would a community of people who have received grace and give grace through good works look like?

**Applications: Now What?**

6. How can Grace of Christ be a community that receives grace and gives grace?

## Prayer

Some ideas of prayer this week: Thanks for God's gift of rescue. Thanks for God's community of people who are working together. Ask to be equipped for good works together. How we can transform the good things we do into vehicles for grace to be spread.