

Wednesday - February 7

Rom 3:19-20 (ESV)

(19) Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

(20) For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

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The concept of "dead works" mentioned in Hebrews 6:1 refers to actions or deeds that are spiritually fruitless or ineffective in bringing about salvation or true righteousness.

Understanding this concept requires delving into the broader biblical context, including Old Testament typologies, to grasp its significance and implications.

Here's an in-depth exploration of the principles of dead works with the use of five Old Testament typologies and application points for each:

Typology = Biblical Symbols given to us in the Old Testament to be revealed in the New with Biblical application. So, we see many Old Testament symbols, giving New Testament Applications.

1. ****Typology: Sacrificial System (Leviticus 1-7)****

In the Old Testament, the sacrificial system was established by God as a means for the Israelites to atone for their sins temporarily. However, the sacrifices themselves did not have the power to permanently cleanse the conscience or bring about true spiritual transformation.

Application Points:

- Dead works can be akin to relying solely on external rituals or observances for righteousness without a genuine heart change.

Showing up to church alone won't save you...

This is akin to just bringing a sacrifice to church.

- Application:

Emphasize the importance of genuine repentance and inner transformation rather than mere adherence to religious rituals.

2. ****Typology: Golden Calf Incident (Exodus 32)****

When the Israelites fashioned a golden calf to worship during Moses' absence, they engaged in idolatry and disobedience despite witnessing God's miraculous deliverance. Their actions were futile and spiritually dead, leading to severe consequences.

Application Points:

- Dead works include idolatry and the pursuit of false gods or worldly desires.

- Application:

Warn against the dangers of idolizing material possessions, success, or relationships above God and emphasize the need for genuine worship and obedience.

3. ****Typology: Wilderness Murmurings (Numbers 11-14)****

Despite God's provision of manna and water in the wilderness, the Israelites grumbled and doubted His faithfulness, longing to return to Egypt. Their lack of faith and gratitude led to spiritual stagnation and wandering in the wilderness.

Application Points:

- Dead works encompass unbelief, murmuring, and ingratitude toward God's provisions and promises.

- Application:

Encourage a spirit of gratitude, faith, and trust in God's provision, even in difficult circumstances.

4. ****Typology: Saul's Sacrifice (1 Samuel 13)****

King Saul, impatient and anxious before a battle, offered a burnt offering without waiting for Samuel, violating God's command. Despite his outward display of religious fervor, his disobedience revealed a heart lacking in true reverence and submission to God.

Application Points:

- Dead works can manifest as religious acts performed out of pride, self-will, or disobedience to God's commands.

- Application:

Stress the importance of obedience and humility in worship and service, prioritizing God's will above personal desires.

5. ****Typology: Pharisaic Legalism (Matthew 23)****

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their outward displays of piety while neglecting justice, mercy, and love. Their adherence to legalistic rules and traditions masked their inward hypocrisy and spiritual deadness.

Application Points:

- Dead works can involve the pursuit of self-righteousness and legalism, devoid of genuine love for God and others.

- Application:

Advocate for a balanced approach to faith that emphasizes love, mercy, and compassion over strict adherence to religious rules and regulations.

In conclusion, understanding the principles of dead works requires discerning the spiritual emptiness and futility of actions or attitudes that lack genuine faith, obedience, and love for God and others.

By examining these Old Testament typologies, believers can identify and avoid dead works, striving instead for a vibrant and authentic relationship with God characterized by faith, obedience, and love.