

# Discovery Group - Gospel Living

## Good Works

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: Ephesians 2:8-10

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How can your *lifework* be part of fulfilling God's purpose in the world? How is it bound up in your community of faith?
- How can you consecrate your lifework to God, so that He is glorified in it? How can you discern the "good works" that He has prepared for you?

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide*: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Ephesians 6:5-9 Colossians 3:22-25 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

## Good Works

In Ephesians 2, Paul tells the story of our redemption. He reminds us that we were in darkness and living in the flesh, but then God in His mercy and grace saved us through His Son. Verse 8 says we are saved by grace through faith. We did nothing, nor can we do anything, to save ourselves. Jesus did it all.

Even though we are not saved by our own works, verse 10 says God created us all to do good works. Our worth is not based on how well we fulfill these works, but we are still called to fulfill them nonetheless. He created us with these works in mind, and ensures that we are equipped to do what He has called us to do. He says that we are God's *workmanship*, or *handiwork*. Think about that for a minute. You were uniquely created with a specific purpose in mind. God crafted you intentionally to fulfill a specific work.

What are these good works? This phrase can be translated to mean employment, but also any other work that we do. Our jobs are to be done well, because we are to do them for the Lord. This isn't just for missionaries and pastors - it's for all of us. We also have other works outside of our careers. "Good works" includes the work we do at home - raising our families, caring for our children, being good neighbors, practicing hospitality, etc. It also includes the volunteer work we do in the community and the world at large - helping the poor, serving our churches, being a good citizen. God has a *lifework* for you to accomplish, and He has made you in such a way that you can in fact succeed. Your *lifework* is the sum total of the good works to which you are called.

It is also significant to note that Paul is writing these instructions to a local church - the pronouns are plural. This suggests that our lifework is not just individual, but is bound up in our community of faith.

This speaks of tremendous purpose - and responsibility! You are called by God to your work - the work of all kinds - that you labor in day by day. It is part of God's plan for the world that you do this faithfully and in a way that brings Him glory. Your vocation is a holy thing, as is your home and community service - if you consecrate it all to Jesus for His purpose. You have a sacred responsibility to discern if the work you are doing is truly part of the lifework God has prepared for you. Just because you are currently doing it does not mean that is God's plan. Keep seeking and obeying, and seek His glory above all else.