

# Works In The Bible

Intro: When one gets into a Bible discussion with denominational people and the subject of *works* comes up, it is like waving a red cape in front of a charging bull. It is almost a *dirty* word for the religious world, as they hold a no works salvation. In this lesson, let us consider the various ways *works* is used in the Bible.

## I. FOR MAKING A LIVING

### A. Work for making a living is right.

1. Exo. 20:9 “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:”
2. Eph. 4:28 “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”
3. 1 The. 4:11 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”

### B. Those who fail to work for a living.

1. Let the person starve.
2. 2 The. 3:10, 12 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”

## II. WORKS OF THE DEVIL

A. 1 John 3:8 “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

### B. Those works:

1. Sin
  - a. He tempted Eve getting her to sin; Gen. 3:1-6 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? <sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. <sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
  - b. He tempted Jesus; Mat. 4:1-10 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. <sup>2</sup> And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. <sup>3</sup> And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. <sup>4</sup> But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. <sup>5</sup> Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; <sup>9</sup> And saith unto him, All these things will I give

thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup>Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

c. **He tempts every person as they reach that age of accountability.**

(1) **Jam. 1:14-15** <sup>14</sup>“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

(2) **1 John 2:15-17** <sup>15</sup>“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

2. **Ultimately the destruction of man in eternal hell.**

### III. WORKS OF THE FLESH

**A. Gal. 5:19-21** <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup>Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

**B. These are works that man does that are inherently sinful.**

### IV. WORKS OF MAN

**A. This is mainly man’s attempts to achieve salvation through their own teachings and effort.**

**B. Scriptures**

1. **Tit. 3:5** <sup>5</sup>“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost”

2. **Rom. 10:2-3** <sup>2</sup>“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

3. **Possibly:**

a. **Eph. 2:8-9** <sup>8</sup>“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

b. It could be discussing the works of man, or it could be discussing the works of the Law of Moses (which is the discussion in the later part of the chapter).

**C. Denominational world is filled with this.**

1. Salvation by grace only.

2. Salvation by faith only.

3. Saying the sinner’s prayer.

### V. WORKS OF THE LAW (OF MOSES)

**A. These are works demanded by the Law of Moses.**

**B. Scriptures:**

1. **Rom. 3:20-28** <sup>20</sup>“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; <sup>22</sup>Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: <sup>23</sup>For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: <sup>25</sup>Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his

righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; <sup>26</sup>To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

2. Gal. 2:16 <sup>16</sup>Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”
3. Possibly Eph. 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

### C. While the works of the Law of Moses had to be done/obeyed, the Law ended when the Law of Christ came into effect.

1. Eph. 2:15 <sup>15</sup>Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;”
2. Col. 2:14 <sup>14</sup>Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”
3. Rom. 7:1-4, 7 <sup>1</sup>Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? <sup>2</sup>For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. <sup>3</sup>So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. <sup>4</sup>Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.... <sup>7</sup>What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”

## VI. WORKS OF GOD (FAITH)

### A. Faith is essential.

1. Heb. 11:6 <sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
2. John 8:24 <sup>24</sup>I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.”
3. Yet, Jesus teaches that faith is a work; John 6:28-29 <sup>28</sup>Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”

### B. Faith and works go together.

1. Gal. 5:6 <sup>6</sup>For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”
2. 1 The. 1:3 <sup>3</sup>Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”
3. Jam. 2:14-26 <sup>14</sup>What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup>And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? <sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. <sup>18</sup>Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup>Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. <sup>20</sup>But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? <sup>22</sup>Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? <sup>23</sup>And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. <sup>24</sup>Ye see then how that by works a man is justified,

and not by faith only. <sup>25</sup>Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way? <sup>26</sup>For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

- a. Without works, faith is dead—it will not save.
  - b. Two illustrations of works that justify:
    - (1) Abraham
      - (a) Shows an Israelite, thus one who was a child of God is justified by works.
      - (b) Illustrates one who is a Christian (one having already obeyed the Gospel) is justified by works.
    - (2) Rahab
      - (a) A Gentile and not a child of God.
      - (b) Illustrates in becoming a Christian is justified by works.
- C. Acts 10:34-35** <sup>34</sup>Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: <sup>35</sup>But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”
1. Works righteousness.
  2. Righteousness is God’s revealed Word:
    - a. Psa. 119:172 <sup>172</sup>My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.”
    - b. Rom. 1:16-17 <sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
- D. Phi. 2:12** <sup>12</sup>Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

**Conclusion:** While there are some works that are condemned, there are some which are approved of God, but there are some God has mandated must be done to have the salvation of our souls. Let us never denigrate works and their necessity.