

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 27.04.25

PREACHER: PS CAM HALL

GOOD

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & **DOING [BODY]***

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple: As we become more like Jesus, we grow as people who love their neighbour with words, works, and wonders, doing it all to glorify God and reflect His nature.

OVERVIEW

While good works are important to our faith, they aren't the gateway to our salvation. Good works are part of the overflow of our hearts once we are secure in our place in the family of Christ—a position bought only by the sacrifice of our Saviour and the grace of our God.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: What is your posture towards good works? Do you serve from a place of earning or glorifying?

Step 2: Commit: What is a practical way that you can reflect the love of Christ to someone in your world this week? Commit to doing that this week.

Step 3: Act: Take a moment to ask the Lord to search your heart and remove any striving for His salvation or approval, and to reveal His love for you in a fresh way this week.

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 2:1-18

We may not like to admit it, but most of us appreciate being recognised for the work we do and the energy we invest. Perhaps it's a masterpiece you have poured hours upon hours into, a person you have come alongside during a dark season and championed, an inconvenient commitment you upheld, or a time when you went above and beyond to make something a success. That feeling of someone noticing our hard work, affirming our efforts, and calling out the good feels, well, good! And yet, the greatest thing we will ever be able to claim as "ours" is the only thing we can never take credit for: our salvation.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2 that we cannot work for our salvation; rather, we work from it. This means that while our good works cannot save our souls, they can still glorify God—in fact, that is their main purpose! Salvation is not a game of cosmic snakes and ladders. It will not be ripped away from us when we make mistakes, and it is not awarded based on our performance. Our salvation hinges simply on our belief and repentance: belief in the Son of God and His death and resurrection, and repentance from our old life and sinful choices. As we do this, we receive His overwhelming and undeserved grace and sit in the security of knowing there is new life available for us in Christ Jesus.

Salvation is the ultimate gift from a Father who knows how to give the best gifts. He delights in His children, bursting with the pride of a father. Like a parent watching a child meet their milestones in life, whether it be learning to walk or graduating from high school, God is filled with compassion, love, and pride for us as we grow in our spiritual maturity. But even before we take many steps on that journey, He saw us and loved us. He knows our sticking points, but His love far outweighs our biggest flaws. He eagerly marks us, sets us apart, and calls us His beloved children. We are walking examples to each generation after us of His incredible wealth of grace and kindness, and He chose us to bear His glory! Insecurities are washed away in the light of His goodness, because it's not about anything we could have ever achieved, but simply what the Father is doing in us and through us.

Today, let us be examples of children who allowed the Father to walk with them into newness of life, laying down striving and being filled with the joy and freedom of His grace!

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1. What might it look like for us, as a group or community, to live in the freedom of God's grace rather than in performance or striving?
2. What does it look like to "work from" our salvation instead of "working for" it in practical, everyday terms? And is there an area where God might be inviting you to rest in His grace instead of striving?

PRAYER

Father,

Thank you that You first loved us, despite our flaws, failings, and sins. Thank you for the gift of salvation that you so willingly gave us. Help us to lay down our striving and simply abide in your kindness and grace, so that we may be living examples of your glory now, and for generations to come.

Amen.