

Reset – Solid Ground for Uncertain Times

January 23rd, 2022

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

Foundation 4: Loving the City

“[Jesus] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:14)

1. Why to do good works

2. Why not to do good works

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week’s sermon? What didn’t you understand?

Going Deeper

2. The gospel not only declares that we've been saved *from* bad things, but saved *for* good things. According to Paul, what have we been saved for (see Titus 2:11-14; Ephesians 2:8-10)? How does this change our view of the role of good works in the Christian life? Why will we inevitably do good works if we are becoming like Christ (see Acts 10:38; Romans 8:28-30; 2 Corinthians 3:18)?
3. What is Jesus' mission (see Mark 1:15; 10:45; Luke 4:18-19; 19:10; compare Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)? We can view Christ's mission through both a wide-angle lens, and a zoom lens. What does this mean? What happens when we only view Christ's mission (and ours) through a wide-angle lens? What happens when we only view it through a zoom lens? Why are both lenses necessary? How does the wide-angle lens help us understand the importance of good works in the Christian life?
4. Why does the gospel give us the only lasting motivation for doing good works (see Deuteronomy 10:16-19; Titus 3:1-8)?

Application:

5. Jeff listed several bad motivations for good works. Which of these motivations are you susceptible to? Share an example with your group.
6. Jeff listed a variety of ways to serve the community at Creekside. Which of these stood out to you? What are you currently doing? What are you interested in pursuing?
7. Scholar Bruce Waltke says that in the Old Testament, "*...the righteous....are [those] willing to disadvantage themselves to advantage the community; while the wicked are willing to disadvantage the community to advantage themselves.*"¹ Can you think of anyone who has disadvantaged themselves for your sake? Who are you doing this for currently?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this message?

¹ *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 1-15* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), 96.