



Daily Verse and Comment

Ephesians 2:10

(10) For we are His workmanship, being created in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them.

A Faithful Version

If [God](#), having foreordained us to be in His Kingdom, is not willing that any should perish and has thus called us, led us to [repentance](#), and given us His Spirit, why should we be careful to "maintain good works" ([Titus 3:8](#)) or "exercise [ourselves] . . . to godliness" ([I Timothy 4:7](#))? Why is such work necessary, since God is so determined to have us in His Kingdom?

The reason is both simple and profound. It is essential we understand it because it captures the essence of the issue of [God's sovereignty](#). The reason is, simply, because it is His will that we do them. We must do them or we may destroy ourselves by refusing because we thus show Him that He is not really sovereign in our life. The works, of course, have other purposes as well. In fact, they have many purposes, for God rarely creates or commands anything for which He does not have multiple uses.

It should be enough for God's children to do as He wills simply because He has bidden us. Nowhere does Scripture teach or even encourage an attitude of fatalistic indifference to our circumstance. The Bible everywhere urges us not to be content with our present spiritual state. We have a long way to go to grow to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. This is a major reason why the "welfare mentality," dragged into the church from [the world](#), is so damaging. It destroys human responsibility to God and each other, greatly hindering one's submission to [God's will](#). Submitting to God's will entails some measure of work because human nature, [Satan](#), and ingrained habits must be overcome.

In [Philippians 3:14](#), Paul proclaims, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ [Jesus](#)." God has summoned us to salvation. Salvation is the prize that goes to those who yield to His will, showing by their lives that God is indeed their sovereign. Jesus admonishes us to, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able" ([Luke 13:24](#)). God's Word exhorts us to proceed energetically and solve the problems of life according to His instructions.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Sovereignty of God and Human Responsibility: Part Eleven](#)

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