



Daily Verse and Comment

Revelation 2:2

(2) I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil; and *that* you did test those who proclaim *themselves* to be apostles, but are not, and did find them liars;

Revelation 2:9

(9) I know your works and tribulation and poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who declare themselves to be Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:13

(13) I know your works and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan *is* ; but you are holding fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Revelation 2:19

(19) I know your works, and love, and service, and faith, and your endurance, and your works; and the last *are* more than the first.

Revelation 3:1

(1) "And to the angel of the church in Sardis, write: These things says He Who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works, *and* that you have a name as if you are alive, but are dead.

Revelation 3:8

(8) I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one has the power to shut it because you have a little strength, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Revelation 3:15

(15) I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot.

A Faithful Version

To each church in the letters in Revelation 2 and 3, Christ says, "[I know your works](#)." People with an incomplete knowledge of Christianity will argue almost endlessly and quite vociferously that no works are needed for salvation. These people are simply, if energetically and zealously, confused.

Salvation is indeed a free gift; it cannot be earned by anyone's works. But that does not mean Christianity has no works. Why would Christ say, "I know your works," if He did not expect people to have them as part of their way of life, as part of Christianity, and if He was not, in most cases, disappointed at the way that the people were working? Christianity does have works as a major part of its makeup.

Herbert Armstrong used to explain salvation and grace and works in an understandable and accurate way. He said, "If I freely offered to give to you one million dollars, but you have to meet the condition of walking across the room to get it, you haven't earned the money by simply walking across the room. You worked during the walk, you met a condition, but the money was still a gift. If the gift had not been offered in the first place, no amount of walking across the room would have earned it. You could have walked from here to Tokyo if you wanted to, and it still would not have earned you that gift. The gift had to be freely offered first."

Think of this in terms of eternal life. No amount of work, no degree of quality of work, can earn that gift for us. We do not have immortality

inherent in us, for immortality is something that must be given as a gift. This is what [God](#) offers us. He offers us the opportunity to be born again into the [Kingdom of God](#), thus receiving the gift of eternal life. It must be given and received as a gift. However, it is given on the conditions of [faith](#), [repentance](#), and remaining loyal to Him and to His way.

It is in the area of loyalty that works play a major role. We show our loyalty by the way we talk, what we talk about, who we fellowship with, and what we do with our time, our knowledge, and energy. In short, we show our loyalty by our works—that is, by our conduct—and what we produce with what we have been given.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[Love and Works](#)



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