



## **Revelation 2:2**

(2) "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

## **Revelation 2:9**

(9) "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

## **Revelation 2:13**

(13) "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

## **Revelation 2:19**

(19) "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, 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, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

## **Revelation 3:8**

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(8) "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, 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 could wish you were cold or hot.

*New King James 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

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conduct—and what we produce with what we have been given.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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