

A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - PART 7

We now turn our attention to the functioning aspect or the righteous acts or actions of the saints, which in other words, is one's ability to live out a divine wisdom or demonstration of Christ likeness, a life of righteousness lived out.

Luke 7:35 Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children

Truth is “SELF EVIDENT”, and Truth is a person, so when we are in the Person, the righteous acts or works that come through our lives, will be a direct reflection and expression of being in Christ.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

When we break this verse down in parts, we get to see a divine eternal reality being uttered. The scriptures say we are not to despise prophetic utterances, and this, like all passages, is a divine utterance.

“For we are His workmanship”.

He is not our workmanship, but we are His workmanship. Our very lives are the evidence of whether Jesus is building us or not. Jesus said, “I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it”

Just like every musical instrument that makes a unique sound is the work of the one who built it, we too, will live unique lives, a life of right acts or works lived out, when the One who created us is building us in accordance to His eternal pattern. Our lives are the very expression of the work of His hands. A builder uses his hands to build his house, and Jesus said “I am the builder of My house”.

The church that Jesus builds is a church who overcomes and is not overcome by the flesh, the world and the adversary. Remember Truth is Self Evident.

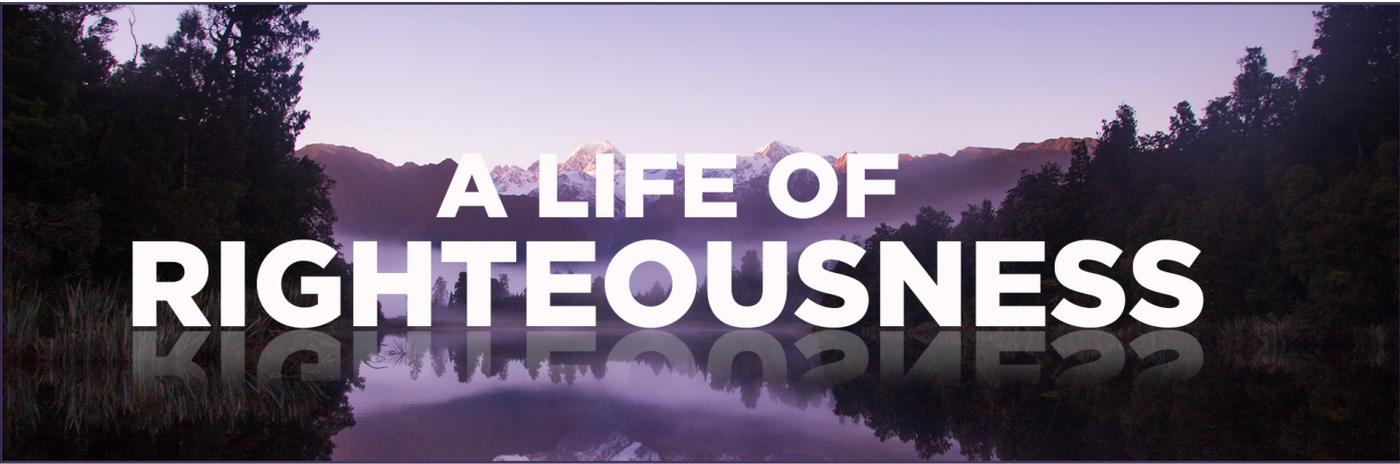
“Created in Christ Jesus for good works”

Our lives began before the foundation of the earth “IN CHRIST”, and it is this very place where all these eternal or righteous acts, good works, get out worked and expressed. This is why fellowship (In Christ), is the first aspect of this divine process, because it is from this spiritual oneness posture that is IN CHRIST, that righteous acts of the saints are accomplished.

Good works are not just any works, but they are as Paul describes, works that God has prepared beforehand for us to walk in. Good works are works that come from faith. They are works that are centred, empowered, inspired, led and accomplished by God through us.

By faith God spoke to Noah about unseen things. God spoke to Noah about building an ark, which would rescue him and his family from the flood. This is a “good work” because it was an eternal work that God had prepared beforehand for Noah to do, but Noah needed eyes (faith) to see this divine or good work.

Because Noah was the workmanship of God’s hands, he had faith and was able to see the work he was to



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accomplish IN CHRIST. Anything less than this, no matter the size of the work, will be accomplished from the flesh, if it is not accomplished by faith, so it is not a good work, or a righteous act. These are the works which get burnt up at the judgement seat of Christ for reward.

These good works or works by faith, which are prepared beforehand for us, we are to accomplish as a body and also as individuals. We must come into the realisation that these works are for us as individuals and for us as a body.

We are to be in both if we are to walk in alignment to the Father and His will.

“Which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them”

Who prepared them?

When did He prepare them?

What are we to be found doing in relation to these works?

1 John 2:6 is very clear. We are to walk in the manner in which Jesus Christ walked. Colossians says we are to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel.

The works that the Father asks us to walk in are not of earth or can be accomplished by earth and earth's ways, and this is what separates the church from every other faith based belief system, aid organisation, self help programme and relief package business'.

Any human being can do good fleshly works but only the church of Jesus Christ can release the manifold wisdom of God into the earth which captures the attention of the heavenly realm.

Ephesians 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is imperative we as the church are this divine demonstration of God upon this earth. This is in fact what makes us the church of Jesus Christ, rather than a place we all come to.

QUESTIONS

1. What arrested you the most and why, out of what we have just heard?
2. Why is Jesus being the builder of His people so essential to the church doing righteous acts?
3. How much of this divine INNER building work are you experiencing in your own life, which in turn has you living out these righteous acts of faith?
4. How does one discern and know the difference between human effort/strength/striving works and true righteous works, that are all accomplished through God's divine power?

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight and apply to our lives?