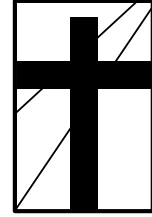


# *The Chaplain's Chapter*



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## WORKS

In the Bible, contradicting verses can be found on just about any subject. No less the case with works. Some tell us that man is not judged by works alone. While others tell us that they are all that follow us. I have picked two quotes for this topic. The first is Ephesians 2:8-10. Those who wish to make a certain point will often quote the eighth and ninth verse only, as that is all they have memorized to make their point in the negative. But I believe that Paul was making a positive point. *“For by grace you have been saved by faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”*. Now add the next verse... *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”*. That kind of changes things, doesn't it? The warning is about being boastful. Not that we should all be monks or holier than the rest. We MUST walk in the path God has laid out for us and do the good works He expects each of us to do. I can even find scripture for you with a different take on boasting, but let's keep it real, as the kids say.

The second quote is one you may or may not remember, but it speaks to the heart of the subject. John heard a voice from heaven in the book of Revelation (14:13) saying *“Write ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”* *“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works will follow them.”* This says a couple things to me. The first point is we will get plenty of rest from our mortal lives, our pain will be spared, when we are present with the Lord. So we should “do good unto others” as long as we draw breath. We should work at the Great Commission as long as we are able. Good works are the essence of our lives on earth. The next, and just as important, lesson is that our works follow us. We will be judged by our works. In another part of the Bible it says we should be “zealous” for good works.

The word in Hebrew is “âsâh”, to do or make, in the broadest sense or application, accomplish, advance, become, bestow, commit, execute, finish, fulfill, be industrious, labor, make, be occupied, bring to pass, provide, sacrifice, serve, work.—*Strongs*

On the whole, in your studying of the Word, when it speaks to you of works, I hope you will be inspired in the sense of the Hebrew verb.

Blessings,

*Alex*

**“AID...HONOR...COMFORT”**

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