

Sermon Notes

Themes from Ephesians

“Poetry in Motion” – Ephesians 2:10

I. Reviewing our work.

- A. Text: Ephesians 2:10
- B. What place is there for good works?
 - 1. Roman Catholics and works.
 - 2. Protestant theology.
 - 3. Note contrast in how good works are viewed.
 - a. Catholic Theology = Faith plus works equals justification
 - b. Protestant Theology = Faith equals justification which produces good works.
 - 4. Evangelicals slip into Roman Catholic error from time to time.

II. The necessity of good works.

- A. “Proof is always in the pudding.”
 - 1. Good works do not produce discipleship, but they prove discipleship is genuine.
 - a. John 15:8
 - 2. Before we can produce any good work for the Lord, He has to do a good work in us.
 - a. John 15:1-8
 - b. Whatever our work, none of it will have spiritual value unless it is done **in Him and not for Him.**
- B. John MacArthur
 - 1. Good works are verifiers of salvation.
 - a. II Cor. 9:8; II Tim. 3:17; Titus 2:14; Phil. 2:12-13
 - 2. Self denial.

III. The poetry of God.

- A. Not thinking today of the Psalms.
 - 1. Ephesians 2:10
 - 2. “Workmanship” – Greek word is *poiema*.
 - a. Our lives in Christ reflect the poetry of God.
 - b. Philippians 1:6
- B. What do we see?
 - 1. Are we poorly written poems?
 - 2. Why we often lack security.
 - a. Laziness – II Peter 1:5-10
 - 1. Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 16, Sec. 3.
 - b. Second – We may not be saved.
 - Luke 7:47; II Cor. 13:5-6

IV. Room for boasting?

- A. The ultimate irony.
- B. Regeneration.
 - 1. I Peter 1:3
- C. It’s all about God.
 - 1. Homer Kent.

V. Points for Reflection.

- A. Good works can never establish our own righteousness before the Lord.
- B. However, good works should follow in our path as we leave the mark of Christian behavior in and on those around us.
- C. It is always a good practice to periodically check our status in the vine of Christ.
- D. Our good works are God’s poetry.