

God's Library

Book of "Works" Pr. 31

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Mother's Day May 14th

Revelation 20:12 reminds us that there are events done on earth that are so significant that God is keeping a journal of them! Some of these volumes record:

- Our Disappointments: Ps 56:8 *"Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?"*
- Our Decisions: Mal. 3:16,17 *"They that feared the Lord spake often one to another and the Lord heard it... and a book of remembrance was written before him ..."*
- Our "Dreams" (Purposes or Value) Ps 139:16 *"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all [my members] were written"* (see also Jer. 29:11)

The Book of "Works" Rev. 20:12

"the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works"

Types of "works" that will be "judged":

1. "Wicked" works. (This phrase is found 3 x in scripture)

A. Neh. 9:34,35 in a Prayer of Repentance: After God's deliverance of the exiles, they realized and confessed their tendency to rebel and repeat "history".

"neither our kings...princes...priests nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them. "For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works." (ra' ma'alāl': evil, hurtful, wicked actions and choices.)

1) What made their "works" (choices) evil? They elevated "their" Kingdoms above God's!
"Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done..." Mt. 6:10

B. Ps 141:3-4 *"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity."*

"Wicked" (reh'sha') wrong! Iniquity *"Iniquity"* (āwen) exert after vanity, idolatry, perversity.

1) Iniquity = Self Will! Is 53:6 *"we have turned every one to his own way."*

C. Col 1:21 *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies ... by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"* Wicked here is ponēros': hurtful, harmful, diseased

1) This is the natural condition of the human heart. Jer 17:9-10

2) It can become "reconciled" again through Faith. "Reconciled" (apokatallas'sō)

from apo: to take away (our Sin) Isaiah 1:18 and katallasso: To change mutually!

a) We give our heart to God by Faith. (Pr. 23:26)

b) He "changes" it! Ro. 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:8-9

3) Notice the context of this: Col 1:17-19 *"He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell."*

➤ Who is "He" and "Him?"

D. If you consider these three specific references, wicked works involve:

- Elevating “My Kingdom” above God’s. (Neh. 9:35)
- Pursuing “My Will” above God’s. (Ps. 141:4)

Doing so ultimately leaves us “unsatisfied” and “alienated” from God’s plans: vs. 19:

“it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell”

plē’rōma: Completing (God’s purposes) Producing lasting satisfaction!

2. “Good Works” (found 15 times in Bible) There are two types identified:

A. Kalos: Beautiful, valuable, virtuous.

Mt 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father... ”*

Jn 10:32 *“Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?”*

1 Tim. 6:18 *“That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;”*

From koinōnos’: partner or share.

Titus 2:14 *“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar (special) people, zealous of good works.”*

Hebrews 10:23-25 *“Let us ... consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.”*

B. Agathos: Beneficial, practical.

Acts 9:36 *“Tabitha (Dorcas) ... was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.”*

Eph 2:10 *“we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

2 Tim 3:16-17 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

This was a requirement for the church “widows” support. 1 Tim. 5:9,10

Conclusion:

1) “Wicked” Works seem to be the byproduct of:

- Pursuing our personal “kingdoms” above God’s. (Neh. 9:35)
- Prioritizing our wills above God’s. (Ps. 141:4)

While we may achieve our goals, we’ll lack true or lasting satisfaction. (Col. 1:19)

2) “Good” Works seem to be the byproduct of our choosing to do that which is intrinsically:

- Beautiful (Valuable) *Reflecting God’s grace and glory. (Mal. 3:17)*
- Beneficial (Practical) *Serving God through serving others. (Gal. 5:13)*

Our “good works” will have a prominent part in how we’re “clothed” in eternity! Rev. 19:7-8

Application:

Mothers are the first and “natural” teacher of these things? Pr, 31:1,2

1) They Warn against “evil” or “wicked” works! Pr. 31:3-5

2) They Model the value of “good” works. Pr. 31:10-31 “virtue” means power, strength, valor

Comes from hîl (khood) to travail, form, to bring forth: This is good definition of Motherhood!

Pr. 31:12 *“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her... She will do him good, not evil all ... of her life.”*

Ṭôb: beautiful and beneficial! (The exact definition of “good works” Kalos and Agathos)