

“Life Application for the Sake of Local Mission”

Sermon Notes

➤ **“We believe that God’s justifying grace must not be separated from his sanctifying power and purpose.”**

EFCA Statement of Faith, Article 8

1. _____ of Mound Free Church...true _____ always _____ (v.1; vv.2-6; 1:16; 2:14; 3:1, 5, 8, 14)

2. _____ Mound Free Church..._____ what you _____ (vv.7-8; 1 Timothy 4:12, 16)

Next Week: Titus 2:2 - “Older Men on Mission”

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of March 29th - April 4th

Getting Started

1. When you hear the phrase “good works”, what’s the first thing that comes to your mind? On the spectrum from threatened to thrilled, how ought a Christian approach this issue?

Digging Deeper

2. Ephesians 2:8-10 contains perhaps the Bible’s most compact summary as it relates to the role of good works in the life of the believer. Read carefully through these familiar words together. According to vv.8-9, how can we get into serious trouble as we think about good works? According to v.10, how can we get into serious trouble if we don’t think about good works?

Open Your Bible to Matthew 5:14-16...

3. In this portion of the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord is crystal clear about the priority and purpose of good works in the lives of those who would follow him. To what does he compare good works (vv.14-15)? What is his ultimate design in us living lives filled with good works (v.16)? Share a concrete example in your life where v.16 became a reality (where you gave glory to God for someone else’s good works or someone else gave glory to God for yours).

4. In Acts 9:36-43, we learn the remarkable account of a particular woman of faith (“Tabitha” in Aramaic, “Dorcas” in Greek). Though there are thousands upon thousands of deaths recorded in Scripture, there are only nine instances of the dead being raised.¹ This woman is one of them. What details does Luke leave us about her and her impact upon the surrounding community? Do you think this might have something to do with why she was raised to life? Why or why not?

5. Consider the theme of good works in Paul’s first letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:10; 5:10, 25; 6:10). What’s the context for each of these references to good works? Define the relationship of good works to each of these sorts of believers and what they might look like in their lives (women, widows, elders under discipline, and the wealthy)?

6. Hebrews 10:24-25 is possibly one of the most beloved references to good works in the entire Bible. Given the governor’s “stay at home” directive for us over these next two weeks, we face both an unprecedented obstacle to fellowship as well as an unprecedented opportunity for mission. How might we creatively seek to continue to obey v.25 for the purposes of carrying out v.24?

7. Scripture is undeniably clear on the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone apart from good works (Romans 3:21-26; 4:1-12; Galatians 2:15-16; Philippians 3:8-11). Read through these passages together as a group. In the midst of a study on the priority of good works in the life of a believer, why is the doctrine of justification by faith apart from works so important (not to mention, indescribably sweet)?

¹ 1 Kings 17:17-22; 2 Kings 4:30-37; 13:21; John 11:38-44; Luke 7:11-17; Matthew 8:28-43; 28:5-8; 27:52; Acts 20:7-12.

8. While Paul makes sure to fly the banner for salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone apart from works in his letter to Titus (Titus 3:5), he's also at pains to highlight the essential nature of good works for our Christian witness and mission in the world (Titus 1:16; 2:5, 7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14). What's more, while it's obvious that initial salvation is apart from works (Titus 3:5), it's just as unmistakable that good works are essential for final salvation (Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 12:14; James 2:14-26). How ought this truth motivate us during this unique season as we pursue our 2025 Vision into the days ahead?