

BY FAITH ALONE

4 OF 5

WE BELIEVE, as SCRIPTURE clearly teaches, that good works flow naturally from a saving Faith.

Just as unbelief is the fountainhead of all sin; so also faith is the 'fountainhead' of all good works, brought to bear by the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul in **(Romans 6)** tells us that those who genuinely believe, cannot sin the more because it is not in their baptized nature.

By faith, good works come to be a natural part of our being human as God created us.

But we do not work this goodness ourselves; **"it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."** (Phil. 2:13, Ephesians 3:20; Romans 9:16; 2 Cor. 3:5; etc.)

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"For, as faith brings you salvation and eternal life, so it also brings you good works; they cannot be restrained."

"Just as a living person cannot refrain from moving about, eating and drinking and laboring, it being impossible that such activities should cease while he lives.

'No one need command and drive him to do such works' but — spare his life and he'll do them.

*"Just as all this is true in the physical life, so **nothing more is required - in order that good works may be done - than faith.**"*
"Only believe, and you will do all of your own accord.

*"Thus, **there is no need of your demanding good works of him who believes, for faith teaches him all that.***

*"And, being done in faith, all he does is well done and all are good and precious works, **however insignificant they may seem.**" (1)*

(1) "Luther's Sermons" **Mark 16:14-20**, Vol. 3, page 187, J. Lenker

PASSAGE OF THE DAY

(1Thess. 1:2-3); *"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Reflect upon these passages this week; (James 2:14-19; Matthew 5:14-16)

NOTABLE QUOTE

"Now, if you steadfastly believe, if you rejoice in God your Lord, if you are alive and his grace satisfies, if your wants are all supplied, how will you employ yourself in this earthly life? Inactive you cannot be.

"Such a disposition of love toward God cannot rest. Your zeal will be warm to do everything you know will be to the praise and glory of a kind and gracious God.

"At this point there is no longer distinction of works.

"Here all commands terminate. There is neither restraint--nor compulsion, but a joyful willingness and delight in doing good.

*"Whether the intended achievement be insignificant or difficult, small or great, requiring short service or long." Martin Luther, Second Christmas Sermon; **Titus 3:4-6**, 1522*

NEXT WEEKS THEME

How might we be certain of our salvation?

*All passage - ESV

