

DOING GOOD: "Highly Motivated"

INTRODUCTION

- **Main Idea:** Doing good involves **finding good reasons to do good**.
- The Christian needs to be properly motivated to godly behavior ("Gospel-centered motivations").

"The commands of God are crushing apart from the grace of God." (De Courcy)

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." (C.T. Studd)

MOTIVATED BY GRACE (v.11-12)

- **For the grace of God has appeared (v.11):** There has been a **dazzling display** of the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
- **Grace of God** – undeserved favor of God towards those who deserve only His wrath.
- **Training us to renounce ungodliness (v.12)** - The grace of God not only **saves**, but it **schools**.
- The grace of God rescues us from the penalty of sin, and also from the power of sin.

"Grace does not grant permission to live in the flesh; it supplies power to live in the Spirit." (John Calvin)

- **Resolute NO** – "training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions" (v.12)
- **Absolute YES** – "to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age." *(v.12)

"Why, man, you are simply a bundle of negatives. You don't drink, you don't gamble, you don't swear. What in the name of goodness do you do?" (C.H. Spurgeon)

MOTIVATED BY GLORY (v.13)

- **Waiting for our blessed hope (v.13):** A Christian is a person who lives in between the first and second coming of Jesus.
- "Joyous anticipation": we have something to look forward to in the hard seasons of life.
- **The appearing of the glory (v.13):** There will be no mistaking Jesus when He returns to this earth.
- The thought of Christ's second coming ought to spur the Christian on to **holiness**.

"When was the last time we glanced toward the sky to see if this might not be that long-awaited moment when we finally see Him face-to-face?" (Joe Stowell)

"Fix your eyes on the rising Morning Star. Don't be disappointed at anything or over elated, either. Live every day as if the Son of Man were at your door, and gear your thinking to the fleeting moment. . . Walk as if the next step would carry you across the threshold of heaven." (Jim Elliott)

MOTIVATED BY GOLGOTHA (v.14)

- **To redeem us from all lawlessness (v.14):** Jesus died to purchase for Himself a **holy nation**.
- **zealous for good works (v.14):** Good works are the outcome of God's glorious grace (Eph 2:8-10).

Sermon Application Questions

August 18, 2019

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip noted in his sermon that ungodliness can be defined as “living life with no reference to God.” Some expressions of ungodliness can be: prayerlessness, planning your week without God, and missing Sunday worship.

What do you think about these examples of ungodliness? What are some practical ways that we can overcome ungodliness and acknowledge God in our daily lives?

2

John Calvin wrote, “Grace does not grant permission to live in the flesh, it supplies power to live in the Spirit.” What do you think about this statement? How does a biblical understanding of grace give us hope in our battle against sin?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Titus 3:3-8

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Read Ephesians 1:3-14. List some of the specific expressions of God’s grace that have been given to believers through the gospel.

2 Why does Paul take time to explain the gospel of grace (Ephesians 1-3) before calling believers to a life of good works (Ephesians 4-6)? How do these “gospel-centered motivations” change the way that we view our daily lives as Christians?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1 The two-sided nature of sanctification that Pastor Philip taught is a theme that is taught consistently in Scripture. The Christian is called not only to say a “resolute NO” to ungodliness and sin, but also an “absolute YES” to positive characteristics of Christ-likeness.

Ephesians 4:22-24 says, “to **put off** your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and **to be renewed** in the spirit of your minds, and to **put on** the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

The following is a worksheet that illustrates the “put off/”put on” process of sanctification. What is one area of your life that you would like to experience growth and change? Consider filling out this worksheet in relation to that area of your life.

“Put Off”	“Renew your mind”	“Put on”
Stealing	Ephesians 4:28	Hard work and generous giving
Corrupting Speech	Ephesians 4:29	Gracious and edifying speech
Anger	Ephesians 4:31-32	Kindness
Bad Associations	1 Corinthians 5:11 Proverbs 27:17	Godly associations
Covetousness	Luke 12:15 Hebrews 13:5	Contentment
Despair	2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Psalm 42:5	Hope in God
Complaining	Philippians 2:14-16 Colossians 3:17	Gratefulness

Area of life that I would like to experience change:

“Put Off”	“Renew your mind”	“Put on”