



The foundation for all Christian conduct is that God has saved us so that we might be zealous for **good works** so that we are used by God to lead others to Him.

Salvation is brought by the **grace** of God in Jesus Christ to **every** stage and station of human life.

We come under the **teaching** of God by His Spirit through His Word and a process of training goes on as through sanctification we are made more and more like **Jesus**.

To reduce salvation to just deliverance from Hell and not from the **power of sin** day to day is to destroy the gospel.

Jesus saves us to make us His **own**: a people who live in good deeds so that others can see the saving power of God on **display**.

*Deuteronomy 26:18-19*

The end of God's purpose is not complete until we become a people **zealous** for good works, to do what is good.

*Colossians 3:5-10; Titus 2:12, 14, 15*

All right thinking about the Christian life will embrace this double motion – to put sin to **death** in our hearts and lives and to make more and more of who we are and how we live an expression of the **Holy Spirit** God has placed within us.

Of the two parts of the action of the Christian life, the 'no' and the yes, it is the **positive** that is most important because it enables the other half. As you put on virtue, you **crowd out** vice and sinful desires of the heart.

Jesus giving Himself for us means that we **can** say 'no' and we **can** say 'yes.'

God is asking us to put into **practice** what Christ has done for us and given to us.

*James 2:18-19*

The heart of God's blueprint is that our lives are to reflect the effectiveness of the **gospel**.

Salvation is accomplished by **grace**, lived by **faith**, and proven by **works** every single day of our lives as we follow Jesus. That's what it means to be a Christian. And it is the very best life there is!

The incentive to live this way comes from:

- looking back with **gratitude** to the grace of God that appeared in Christ when He came to purchase our redemption on the cross
- looking forward with **hope** to the glory of God that will appear at the second coming of Christ when He completes that redemption once and for all.