

April 19, 2026

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



How Many Good Works Are Enough to Save Me? (Part 2 of 4)

Does the New Testament teach that a Christian (i.e., one who has been saved by obeying the conditions specified by the God of heaven) must do good deeds in order to maintain His relationship with God? That question bothers some folks. The question is not asking anything about “earning” a relationship or “deserving” a relationship. The question is asking if the New Testament requires a Christian to work to be right with God. Consider only a few passages.

“...He who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). “Let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). “...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...” (Phil. 2:12). “They are to do good, to be rich in good works” (1 Tim. 6:18). “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works” (Tit. 2:7). “Let our people also learn to maintain good works” (Tit. 3:14; cf. 2:14; 3:8). “Faith without works is dead” (Jas. 2:20, 26). “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). “Be faithful until death” (Rev. 2:10).

Bible readers know that this list of verses could be multiplied over several times. One cannot read through the New Testament and not be struck with how often God requires that one “do the things” that He says (Luke 6:46). And it is God Himself who ties His required works with our eternal salvation in heaven. Consider only a few passages.

“He who does the will of My Father in heaven” “shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 7:21). “Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matt. 25:23). God “will render...eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good...glory, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good” (Rom. 2:6-10). “He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:9). “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

Again, this list of verses is not exhaustive, but it is a sufficient selection to show decisively that it is God (not man) who demands faithful obedient works “to serve the living God” (Heb. 9:14), as he prepares for an eternity in heaven, where he will continue to “serve Him” (Rev. 22:3).

So what if a Christian does not do the good works that the God of heaven calls him to do? James calls such “sin” (Jas. 4:17), and Jesus identifies such a person as a “wicked and lazy servant,” who will be “cast...into outer darkness” (Matt. 25:26-30). Failing to do the work that God commands of His people has eternal consequences!

It is not “earning” heaven to do what is “our duty to do” (Luke 17:10). It is faithful, required (and joyful) obedience. ~David Sproule

Keep these Dates in Mind	Birthdays and Anniversaries	
04/05 Monthly Potluck 04/11 Men's Business Meeting 04/14 Hand & Foot Get Together	Joe Wilson 4/10 Naomi McCown 4/15 Vern & Sammie Engelke 4/18 Hailey Fuentes 4/19 Emalyn Woodward 4/24 Anthony Rodriguez 4/28	
5th Sunday Singings	Bible Studies	
May 31 – Pendleton Aug 30 – Hermiston Nov 29 - Kennewick	Adult Bible Classes (Fellowship Hall) Sunday am (9:30a) – 1st Timothy Wed pm (6:00p) – Minor Prophets	Ladies Class Ladies class - Thursday, at 11:00 -12:30. Survey of the OT

For us to remember:

- **Annie Phom, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Tami Pennington, Jim Preston, Sandi Gray, Shannon Mendoza, Bill Lafferty, Linda Lafferty, Lyn Gigar, Queca Woods, Paul Mays, Shauna** (Ila Stevens granddaughter), **Jonni Marcotte, Joe Marcotte, Freddie Garza** (Danny's cousin), **Terry Brown, Lupe Mendoza, Jackson Ward** (Josh Mendoza's friend), **Tamara Zog, Doreen Martinez**
- **Lupe Mendoza** as she continues to heal.
- **Pat Lindsay** is home and continues to heal.
- **Artheta Maxwells** funeral will be held April 25 at the Richland Church of Christ. See Fran or Danny for details.
- **Teens** Rally on the Rocks is coming. If you are interested in going see Delina Woodward
- Teachers for the children's classes are needed. Please consider filling this need and contact, Fran, Holly, or Debbie Bolt.

Date	Opening Prayer	Song Leader	Communion Thought (Devotional)	Lord's Supper	Closing Prayer
This week	J. Danley	L. Moore	D. Mendoza	L. Moore K. Winstead	J. Wilson
Next Week	H. Jones	J. Mendoza	G. Keever	J. Danley K. McCown	D. McLaughlin

The Hardest Part is Asking

For me, the most challenging part of evangelism isn't conducting Bible studies or knocking on doors—it's finding the courage to ask someone to study. That moment carries the greatest tension, where all the effort either bears fruit or falls flat. It's when a person chooses to accept or reject your invitation.

In many ways, asking feels hard because we've made it so. We create invisible barriers in our minds that may not actually exist. Yes, not everyone will respond positively, and some studies might not go as hoped. But much of the difficulty comes from the fears and assumptions we build within ourselves. Often, people are far more open and receptive than we give them credit for.

Maybe the issue lies in our approach and mindset. Instead of starting with, "Did you know you might not be saved?" try saying, "Would you like to study together to learn more about the church or your relationship with God?" This sounds less confrontational and sets a positive tone for the study. Many people don't realize they are lost until they encounter the Scriptures themselves. It's better for them to come to that realization than for us to tell them.

Sometimes, we hesitate because we think we're not "eloquent" or knowledgeable enough to study with someone. Moses felt this way when he spoke to God (Exodus 4:10). Yet God used even an ineloquent speaker to accomplish great things among His people. Paul understood that his mission was to proclaim the Gospel—not with eloquence, but with its power (1 Corinthians 1:17). As Christians, we have the basic skills and knowledge to lead someone to the Gospel. It's just a matter of putting it all together clearly and confidently.

We might also worry about hurting our relationship by asking someone to study. That's a real possibility, but we must weigh the cost. If we fear losing a friend or causing tension more than losing a soul, then we have deeper issues to address. Paul's words remind us: "I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 18:26–27). Not acknowledging Christ before our friends carries serious consequences—Jesus warned that He will deny those who deny Him before others (Luke 12:8–9).

What makes asking easier is learning to trust the Lord, casting our fears on Him, and caring more about souls than what people think of us (Luke 12:4–5). When we do this, the hardest part isn't as hard as we might think. ~Spenser Clark

Wednesday Night Devotional

Date	Song leader	Devotional	Date	Song leader	Devotional
04/01	J. Mendoza	H. Jones	04/29	D. Mendoza	L. Moore
04/08	L. Moore	D. Mendoza	05/06	J. Mendoza	J. Wilson
04/15	D. Mendoza	J. Mendoza	05/13	D. Mendoza	H. Jones
04/22	J. Mendoza	B. Lafferty	05/20	L. Moore	D. Mendoza

