**Scripture:** Romans 6

**Singing:** 178:1-4 – 88:1-3 – 313:1-5 – 175:1-4

Intro: Golden bells and pomegranates! (Exo. 28:34)

A. Three cautions in studying God’s will on *good works*

 1. Holiness is as much Gospel grace as the pardon of our sins (1 Cor.

 1:30; John 15:1-4)

 2. Real sanctification **follows** grace justification (Rom. 12:1-2; Phi. 2:1)

 3. To smuggle holy living into the court of justification is fatal

**The Divine Purposes of Good Works**

I. It reveals the reality our salvation

II. It is the expression of the thankfulness for our salvation

III. It is the most powerful witness about salvation

**I. Good Works reveal the reality of salvation (review)**

A. See James 2 as the summary

**II. Good works is the expression our thankfulness**

A. Is resisting *holiness-preaching as if it is duty religion* a good or bad sign?

B. Good works are fruit of *receiving the salvation in Jesus Christ*

 1. pre-occupation with Jesus’ work *transform* the believers (Gal. 2:20)

C. By how express our *thankfulness to God for such salvation?*

 1. Begin with *daily praising Him* (Heb. 13:15)

 2. Follow with *praising Him up before others* (Ps. 34:1-6; 40:9-100)

 3. Express it *practically - physically*: Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:12-20

 a. NT lays great emphasis on the body as well as the soul

 b. Paul exhorts believers to *yield their members of body/sacrifice*

c. Ask yourself: *what is my reasonable service for Jesus, my Lord?*

**III. Good works is the most powerful witness about salvation**

A. Life of holiness *in a walk of devotion of love* is most powerful evangelism

 1. Matt. 5:16: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your*

 *good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven* (1 Pet 3:1-2)

a. what good works is Jesus speaking about?

 b. to whom do we show these good works? (Rom. 12:20-21)

**Closing**: Consider Paul exhortation in Heb. 10:24!

A. Sanctification is not an *isolated – personal* development

 1. It grows through *fellowship with saints* and *live with sinners*

 a. we are to *consider fellow saints*

 b. we are to *provoke fellow believers*

B. Should we make that *a* ***growing goal***as congregation?

 1. Let brotherly love continue (Heb. 13:1)

 2. And the Lord make you to increase and about in love one toward

 another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you. (1 Thess.

 3:12)

Man is made for society and Christians for the communion of saints.

(M. Henry)

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We ought not to make any conditions of our brethren’s acceptance with us but such as God has made the conditions of their acceptance with Him.

(M. Henry)

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Fellowship for the early Christians was an unconditional sharing of their lives with the other members of the body. (Side)