

Equipping the Saints to Live *Coram Mundo*

It is the call of the pastor, both to proclaim God's passive righteousness and to equip the saints to live righteously before others.

Paul commands pastors to do this: "Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people." –Titus 3:1-2

Good works are done, not to *establish* one's relationship to God, but because that relationship has *already* been established by Christ.

God saved us for good works, which he prepared for us. Ephesians 2:10

The essence of active righteousness is love for others

1. Serving physical needs

- God created us in various stations in this life
- We all live in families
- Each family member has particular duties: Husband, wife, children
- We must work for the good of our families first and foremost
- We also live in communities, and many of us in jobs
- God calls us to work hard within our particular vocations, for the good of others
- We should not "work for the weekend," but so that others might be served.
Working is a privilege.
- God uses us as his "masks" to serve the world.

2. Serving spiritual needs

- God calls us to work in both kingdoms- left hand and right hand
- We serve the right hand kingdom through evangelism, and teaching/discernment
- All people are called to share the good news
- We share the good news through our relationships
- Our finances and efforts can be used to support foreign missions
- We are called to be equipped in our knowledge Scripture
- Discernment is essential- Get to know God's Word, and use it to judge all teachings
- Our learning and discernment should be shared with others

Our active righteousness will never be perfect in this life. We will fail to live as God calls us to, yet Christ's blood and righteousness still cover us. The forgiveness God brings continues to empower us to live for the good of others.

