

GOOD

- what seems good to a man is often not good;
e.g., feeding the hungry may be good (James 2:15–16; 1 John 3:17) or bad: don't give food to nations being disciplined by famine (Ezek 14:12–14) or to lazy people—not even to lazy believers (2 Thess 3:10)
- good is what God says is good, not what man says is good
 - God is good (Psa 100:4, 5);
- therefore, what God commands (Psa 119:39; Rom 7:12), does (Psa 119:68), and gives (Matt 7:11) is good
 - what's good and what's bad is revealed in the Bible
- we are not able to determine what's good or bad because we are not good (Mark 10:17–18; cf. Matt 7:11; Rom 7:18)
 - men often call evil good and good evil (Isa 5:20; Mal 2:17), such as living together and homosexuality
- don't judge God according to what *you* think is good (you would have to be omniscient to know what is good and bad)

GOOD WORKS

- good works are works that God thinks are good
- good works are compatible with God's character and are done in his name by his servants to glorify him
- unbelievers are “worthless for any good deed” (Titus 1:15–16); their good works are done to glorify self, not God (cf. Rom 8:8)
 - a good deed may be doing nice things to make people feel loved and appreciated:
Mary of Bethany poured costly perfume on Jesus' head worth 300 denarii to prepare him for burial (Matt 26:6–13; John 12:1–8) and Tabitha made many clothes for her friends—called “deeds of kindness” (Acts 9:36)
 - doing good deeds makes many friends (Acts 9:39)
 - a good deed may be providing the physical needs of others: Tabitha also gave clothes to the poor (Acts 9:36–42)
 - the more the better: Tabitha “was full of deeds of kindness and charity, which she continually did” (Acts 9:36)
 - don't criticize the good works of others:
they have a right to do what they want whenever they want for whomever they want (Matt 26:8–10; John 12:4–7)
 - a good deed may be supplying the basic needs of missionaries (Titus 3:13–14)
 - doing good works is learned behavior: we must learn to busy ourselves (*proistemi*) with good works (Titus 3:14a); to not learn is to be unfruitful in your Christian life (Titus 3:14b)
 - good works are other-centered and are always a form of giving—of either your time, help, or material possessions
 - all good works are acts of giving, but all acts of giving are not good works
 - good works provide for the emotional (Mary of Bethany), physical (Tabitha, missionaries), and spiritual needs (missionary activity) of others
 - good works glorify God (Matt 5:14–16)

JESUS

- many of Jesus' good works were miracles, such as healing a man on the Sabbath (John 7:21–23)
- these miraculous good works proved that Jesus was the Messiah (Matt 11:2–5; John 5:36; 10:24–25)
 - no other prophet did so many miracles in so short a time (John 15:24)
 - his good works were done in his Father's name—to glorify the Father (John 10:25)