

## Sowing Compassion

### Today's Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

I am sad to say that I grew up in a context where the expression "good works" was always looked upon with suspicion. Now that I have lived half a century, I scratch my head wondering how in the world I bought into that suspicion.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand for us to do." How did I miss that for so many years? In our attempt to make clear that salvation is totally a work of grace (vv. 8-9), we completely ignored the verse that talks about "good works." But the verse refused to go away.

And the reason is that God's idea is that "good works" are a natural result of salvation. They was not after thoughts. They're in the DNA of the Gospel. God prepared them "beforehand," and He expects us to walk in them.

Sometimes the most effective way to get to the heart of our friends is by doing good works.

And, amazingly, the "good works" don't even have to benefit them directly. Example: A young man approached me at Starbucks. He introduced himself and said that his wife had participated in "Team Hope," a group of people who run to raise money to rescue at-risk children in Asia. This man is not a believer but he wanted to let me know how much he appreciated what our church was doing. I took advantage of the opportunity to tell him briefly why we do what we do.

Paul says in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up." He then goes on to tell us to do good to "all people."

So let's keep on doing good in our community and around the world and let the naysayers worry about it.

Pastor Ivanildo C. Trindade