

TRUE GOSPEL, REAL DISCIPLES

ARE WE TRULY DOING GOD'S WORK?

GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

THE WORK WE ARE CALLED TO DO

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

THE WORK OF GOD

“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working. . . . because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

JOHN 5.17, 19-20

- ▶ **When God does something, it is to reveal His glory and His ways.**
 - ▶ After the centuries of slavery in Egypt: the Tabernacle, it's furnishings, the Levitical priesthood
 - ▶ After the final judgment: a new heavens and earth characterized by *only* righteousness (2 Peter 3.10-13; Revelation 21-22)

- ▶ In the New Testament, God is establishing a “New Order” based on the infinitely atoning work of Christ—who is and whose work is the ultimate revelation of God’s glory and ways (see 2 Corinthians 4.4, 6; Colossians 1.15, 19-20).
- ▶ Through Christ’s atoning work, God’s righteousness is revealed against sin (cf. Romans 1.17-18) and on behalf of the sinner for forgiveness and justification (Romans 3.21-24). In the sacrifice of His Son for sinners, the love of God for all of humanity is revealed—the excellence (glory) of His love and grace for the salvation of all people (cf. Romans 16.25-26).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

ACTS 2.5-12

► At Pentecost, “God’s work, God’s way, for God’s glory” was revealed.

- ▶ In God's new work, the gospel of salvation through Christ transcends human distinctions and disparities (see Colossians 1.11), human elitism (see Luke 18.9-14; Philippians 3.4-7), and our inclination toward segregation (see Ephesians 2.13-16).
- ▶ We are incorrigibly inclined to do the work of God according to our human (racial, ethnic, socio-economic) distinctions or preferences; but doing so glorifies our human differences above the glory of God, and so we betray the gospel of Christ (see Galatians 2.11-14a).
- ▶ If we truly do God's work, God's way, the glory of God will be revealed and cause people to say, "What does this mean?"