

Series: Exodus

Title: God Severs Our Works

Text: Exodus 9: 1-7

Date: November 26, 2017

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**Exodus 9: 1: Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. 2: For if thou refuse to let *them* go, and wilt hold them still, 3: Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which *is* in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: *there shall be* a very grievous murrain. 4: And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all *that is* the children's of Israel. 5: And the LORD appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land. 6: And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. 7: And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.**

Religious folks everywhere speak of good works. But what makes a work good? When does God accept a work as good?

**Proposition:** God only accepts the works that Christ has worked for and in his people.

**Title:** God Severs our Works

#### THE WORKS OF THE UNREGENERATE

**Exodus 9: 3: Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which *is* in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: *there shall be* a very grievous murrain.**

The disease upon the cattle pictures that all the works of the unregenerate sinner are dead works. These were all animals by which the Egyptians did their works. Left under the curse all the works unregenerate sinners produce are diseased, dead works (pictured in the diseased cattle.)

Romans 7: 5: For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

Romans 6:21: What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Why are the works of a carnal man only sinful? There are many reasons but let me give you four.

One, since we are sinners by nature, everything a sinful man does is sinful.

Proverbs 21: 4...the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Exodus 20:25: And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.

Two, it is because the carnal man's mind is set on things of the flesh so that he cannot subject himself to the law of God to keep it nor can he believe on Christ unto righteousness.

Romans 8: 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. [being regenerated by the Spirit, we believe on Christ unto righteousness. But why can unregenerate men NOT attain to the righteousness of the law?] 5: For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6: For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. 7: Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Titus 1:15:..unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Proverbs 21:27: The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

Three, unregenerate man's works are sinful because his works are not of faith—

Romans 14:23: And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Hebrews 11: 6:...without faith *it is* impossible to please God.

Four, unregenerate man's works are sinful because the unbeliever's works are produced by himself to his own glory and praise. Believers are...

Philippians 1:11:...filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

So outside of Christ, the sinner and all his works are diseased cattle—sinful works unto death. Sinner, never imagine that you can please God by anything you do. Only through faith in Christ.

## **GOD SEVERS OUR WORKS**

**Exodus 9: 4: And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all *that is* the children's of Israel.**

In Christ and by Christ, God severs the works of his people from the works of the unregenerate.

Remember, chapter 8, *God severed the land of Goshen in which his people dwelled and put a division between his people and the Egyptians*—a type of God separating Christ and separating his people in Christ in whom his people dwell.

Here, the picture is that in Christ and by Christ, all the believer's works are severed from the works of the unbeliever—*And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.*

The LORD discriminates, separating his people and our works by his grace—*the LORD shall*. We are reminded by the Spirit of God once again that it is God himself who separates the precious from the vile, by his sovereign, free, discriminating grace (Malachi 3:11, 18).

Concerning our obedience to the law, when Christ fulfilled the righteousness of the law, all his people were in Christ, so all his people fulfilled the righteousness of the law in him, justified from all sin.

Daniel 9:24: Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

## **BORN AGAIN AT A SET TIME**

**Exodus 9: 5: And the LORD appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land. 6: And the LORD did that thing on the morrow,.**

Each one for whom Christ died shall be born of the Spirit at God's set time. When the Holy Spirit regenerates a sinner, Christ creates a new man severed from the old man within us and severed from men of this world—the new man is pure, holy.

Ephesians 4:24...which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

The new man is born of *incorruptible seed*—meaning the new man cannot be corrupted by sin. As Christ said,

Matthew 7: 17: every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18: A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

1 John 3:9: Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

It is impossible to sin when our new man is created in the eternal righteousness of Christ, the perfect fulfillment of the law, justified from all sin—past, present and future forever! Through faith in Christ we believe unto righteousness—we establish the whole law of God.

Romans 10: 4: For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth...10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The first good work that God has ordained that all his people shall walk in is faith in Christ. Then just like that first work, all our works are produced by Christ, motivated by his love and accepted by God because we are cleansed in Christ's blood.

1 John 1:7: if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Titus 1:15: [Therefore] Unto the pure all things are pure:...

God looks on the heart. The motive of the unregenerate man's sinful heart is to earn righteousness, to earn salvation, to indebt God. But the blood of Christ gives us a new motive in our heart which God delights in.

2 Corinthians 5: 14: For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15: And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

## HAVE YOUR WORKS BEEN SEVERED?

**Exodus 9: 7: And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.**

Pharaoh heard this and hardened his heart. The same sun that melts the snow, hardens the clay. The same gospel that blesses the believer, hardens the heart of the unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 2: 15: For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16: To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?

But hearing this same good news, moves the believer to good works. This is why we must hear of Christ's faithfulness. In the valley of dry bones, God told Ezekiel to declare God's works—*thus saith God unto these bones, Behold I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live...*so Ezekiel preached God's works and God made them live.

Those who begin by hearing the preaching of faith—of Christ and him crucified—are kept by continuing to hear of Christ's faith.

Galatians 3: 2: This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?...5: He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 6: Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness....8: And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9: So then they which be of faith [hearing of Christ's faith] are blessed with faithful Abraham.

May God make you to be born of him, bring you to faith in Christ and make all your works good works.

**Amen!**