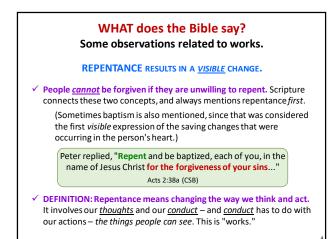
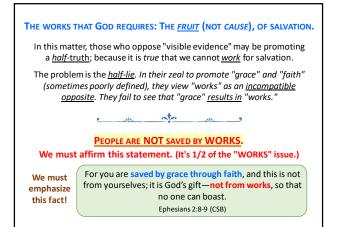


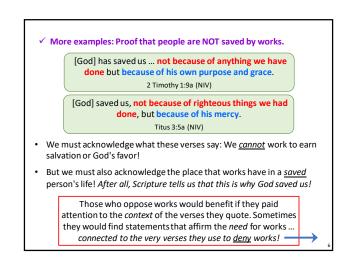


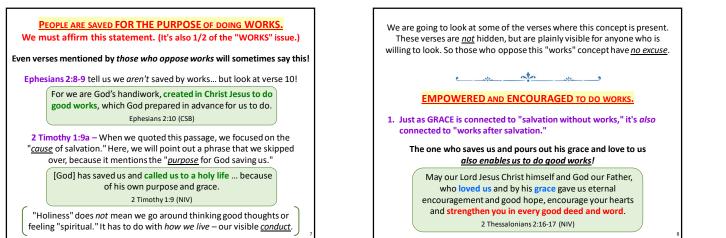
Today, many church-goers <u>deny</u> much of the Good News message. They deny the necessity of <u>repentance</u> – being either opposed to it, or considering it a merely optional "work." They connect "works" to "an attempt to earn salvation or God's favor," and deny any connection to the "fruit of salvation." They reject the idea that there will be <u>visible evidence</u> when a person is saved. They may even claim that it is a denial of "grace," and an attempt to earn God's approval. When describing the Good News, they often <u>redefine</u> the words used – so that, even when the "correct" words are being used, they actually mean something quite different.

People who reach this point may have *started* with half-<u>truth;</u> but it contained half-<u>lie</u>, and the <u>lie</u> has won out.









The grace that saves also teaches us to do what is good!

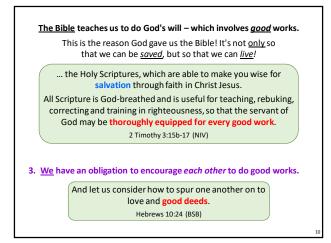
People who aren't being taught don't have grace. "Grace" is <u>not</u> an excuse for denying one's responsibility!

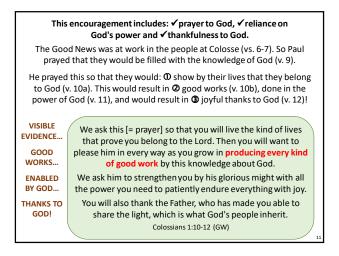
For the grace of God ... teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age ... Titus 2:11a, 12 (NIV)

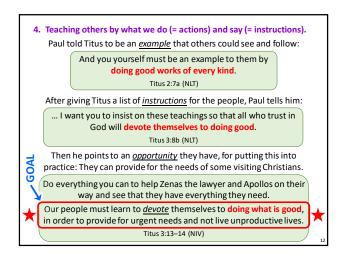
2. Other ways God has enabled us to do good works:

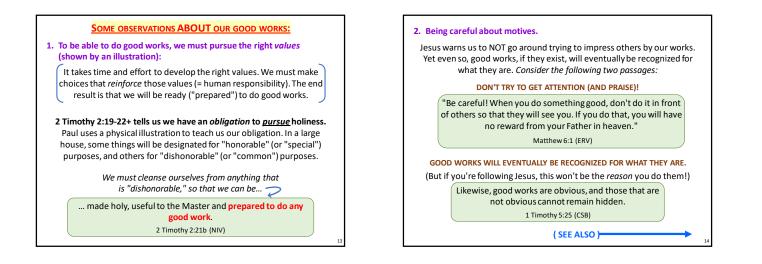
<u>Jesus</u> died ... to enable us to do good works... AND to change our attitude about them.

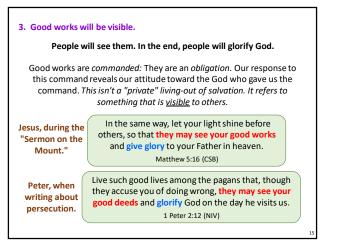
[He] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, <u>eager</u> to do what is good. Titus 2:14 (NIV)

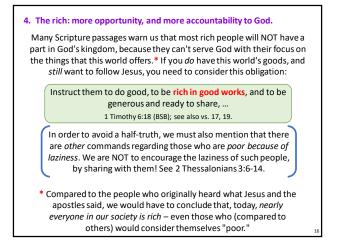












 Now suppose you claim to be a Christian, but are living a life of NOT doing these good things...

 IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU, THEN CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

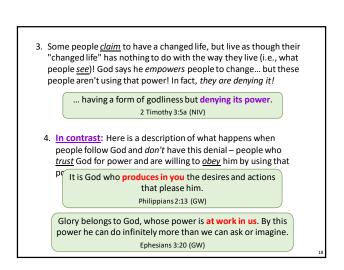
 1. Scripture has something to say about such people. What it says is proof that "visible evidence" (or lack thereof) is a serious issue!

 Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good. Titus 1:16 (NLT)

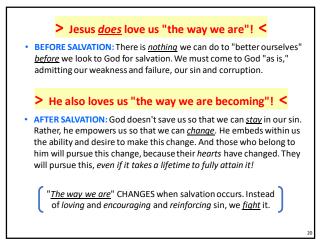
 2. Some people think they can do good without God... Scripture explains why such people cannot see the truth about their corrupt nature. Here is a typical verse that explains their condition:

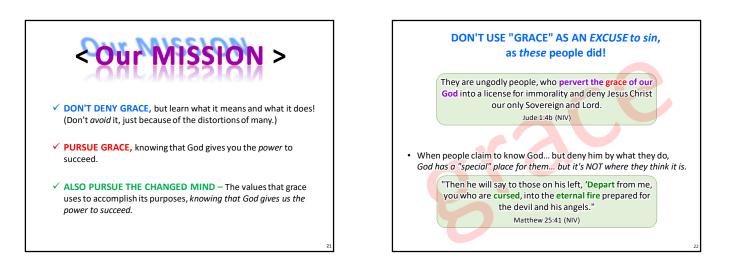
 ... because their minds and consciences are corrupted.

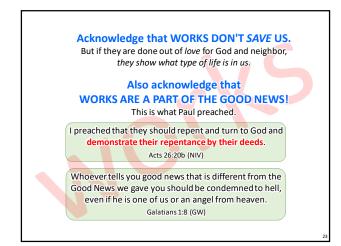
Titus 1:15b (NLT)











In the Bible, we can learn what these "works" are. It doesn't mean "doing religious things," unless you define "religion" the way James does, in James 1:26-27: Love for God and neighbor, expressed in helping the helpless and pursuing moral purity.

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