

## No Unimportant People in Christ

By: Dan Jenkins

So, you think you are a student of the Bible? Let me ask you a question. How many of these Bible characters do you remember? Epaphroditus, Amplias, Andronicus, Junia, Urbanus, Apelles, Aristobulus, Herodion, Narcissus, Persis, Rufus, Julia, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Asyncritus, Patrobas, Phlegon, Hermas, Philologus, Lympas, Gaius, Erastus and Quartus?

This is not a copy of the names copied from some obscure genealogical list. They are all mentioned in the New Testament. Paul knew them and likely you some day will meet them in heaven.

We know that some of them used their house as a place of worship. One was the first person Paul converted in Achaia. Some were fellow prisoners and were known by many apostles. Paul described some of them as beloved, fellow workers, approved in Christ, labored much in the Lord, chosen in the Lord, my mother, my host, the treasurer of the city, and a brother.

You might think they are not important, but God, for some reason, wanted us to know them and gave us a record of their names. They are all found in Paul's closing chapter to the church in Rome. They are all on another list found in another place where their names are recorded in heaven (see [Heb. 11:23](#)). You some day will meet them in heaven!

If you sometimes feel that your presence in

the kingdom is so insignificant, you are wrong. These were real people who impacted in some way the lives of other Christians. You are just like them for you to impact the lives of others. It is not just those important church leaders whose names are widely known that matter. We must never overlook those who are not known, for Jesus spoke of those who were the least in the kingdom and was so vitally aware of what happened in their lives. The doors of heaven open and close on how we treat the least in the kingdom, for our attitude toward them shows our attitude toward the Savior. The Lord said, "As often as you did it unto them, you did it unto Me" ([Matt. 25:40](#)).

We may feel that because we are not visible in some public way in the church that we do not matter. He sees us and is aware of every "cup of cold water" we give to others ([Matt. 10:42](#)). Your worth is not determined by doing great deeds like noble people. It is determined by the unrecognized, "insignificant" deeds.

So, live your life realizing that you serve Him, and He gives you opportunities to bring glory to Him in faithfully serving by doing "insignificant" service. God does not just see the great deeds of those well-known. He sees you and your name is recorded above. There are no names on that list that are not important to Him. Your name is important to the Lord.

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# How Many Good Works Are Enough to Save Me? (Part 1 of 4)

By: Selected

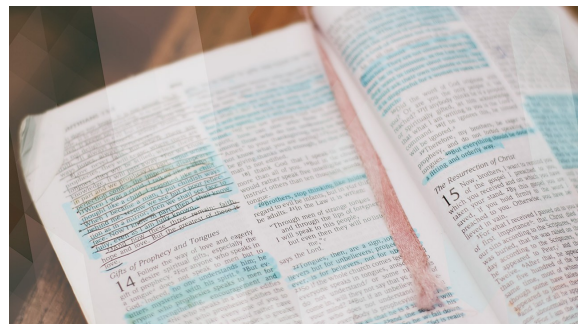
The Bible does not teach that a Christian can “earn” his way to heaven by doing good works (Eph. 2:8-9), but it does teach that we are created for “good works” (Eph. 2:10). Sometimes that might sound confusing. Sometimes folks will lean on the first part of that (verses 8-9, as if good works are not necessary to go to heaven) over the second part (verse 10), and sometimes other folks will lean on the second part (verse 10), emphasizing good works so much that it might sound like they’re earning heaven) over the first part. So, which is it? Where is the balance? Are good works necessary to go to heaven?

These words are found in Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Does that teach that “works” are not necessary to be “saved”? Such has often been argued from these verses. But, what do the verses actually say, and what does the balance of Scripture teach?

The Bible says that salvation is “the gift of God.” Does that mean a person must “do” ZERO things to obtain salvation? Think through Scripture. There are obvious conditions that God places between a sinner and salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:35; Romans 10:9-17). To say that a sinner can obtain the gift of God’s salvation while “doing” ZERO things is to state something the Bible never states (Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:18-19). God equally places conditions between a saved individual and going to heaven (which will be examined in the next article). So to say that a Christian can enter the gates of heaven while “doing” ZERO things is to state something that is not found in Scripture (1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Pet. 4:11).

So what is Ephesians 2:8-9 saying about “works”? It is evident from reading the Bible (and knowing that the Bible never contradicts itself but only harmonizes to teach the same thing [Psa. 119:160]) that Paul is not saying that NO “works” are necessary to be saved and to go to heaven. The distinction Paul is making has to do with humanly devised works, as if one could “boast” of earning his salvation. Contextually, we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works” (v. 10), so the “works” (v. 9) which do not save us are different from the “works” that Christ has for us. Christ’s “works” for us are necessary to be saved. Man’s “boast”-worthy “works” will never save. And that is the difference.

God places conditions on His free gifts. For example, He told Israel that He was “giving” (it was a “gift”) the land to them (Josh. 1:2, 11, 13, 15), but then He gave conditions to obtain it (Josh. 6:2-5). He defined the “works” essential to obtain His “gift.” God’s “works” are essential for His gifts!



## Upcoming Events

Tonight: Monthly youth devo hosted at the White home. Boys bring drinks and girls bring desserts.

May 2-3: Midtown's Challenging the Church with speaker Brant Stubblefield.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Eddie Serenil who had a stint procedure last week.

Bob Law who had surgery in Houston.

Ken Dorries who was in the hospital and is now home.

Veronica Serenil who will be undergoing treatments for her cancer.

Janis Fossati, Willie Fossati's mother and Nancy Fortenberry's sister, who will be having medical tests done.

### 2026 Pocket Directories

Pocket Directories are available on the table in the foyer.

### Graduate Candidates

We are getting ready to honor our graduates. Please let Nina Siegel know if you have a graduating student for the 2025-2026 school year.

## Service Roster

Week of April 12, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati  
Song Leader..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons  
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Cody McCoy  
Cup..... Randy D'Herde  
Offering..... Bryant Siegel  
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen  
Assist..... Lupe Escojido  
Assist..... Blake Jacobs

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Randy D'Herde

Opening Prayer..... Randy D'Herde  
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Bill York/  
Bryce Dolan

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Cody McCoy  
Song Leader..... Doug Jobs  
Devotional..... Ron White

### Other

Prepare Communion for April.....F. Rosales

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

Kelly Cannady.....April 14  
Jake Jacobs.....April 16  
Nia FitzSimmons.....April 17

### Anniversaries

Robert & Pam Stryker.....Apr. 14  
Darren & Candace Drake.....Apr. 17

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email [office.midtownchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.midtownchurch@gmail.com)

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My  
word and believes in Him who sent Me has ever-  
lasting life, ...  
John 5:24

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of April 5, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....72  
A.M. Worship.....106  
P.M. Worship.....54  
Wednesday Worship.....52

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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