

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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Part-Time Parents

By: Dan Jenkins

In our society we often make a distinction between those who work part-time and those who work full-time. It is a helpful way to describe activities and expectations in the work place. However, there is a “job” where everyone is full-time and are just a phone call or text from responding. The “wages” from this job may not seem great, but the “retirement benefits” are beyond belief. The truth is that in Christianity there are no part-time “jobs.”

Those with children can appreciate that in Christ there are no part-time parents. Godly parents look at their children and realize the demands for them to train up a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6) and to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Our God-given responsibility is to take these gifts from heaven and to do with them what a skilled hunter does with an arrow. They are God’s children which He has given to us for such a short time to make sure when we release these arrows they go in the right direction (Psa. 127:4).

Before the Jews entered the Promised Land, Moses describes how to do this using these words. After giving the greatest commandment God ever gave about our love for Him, he then said, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You

shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes” (Deut. 6:6-9).

This is far more than occasionally talking to them about God! Every day there are so many opportunities to talk to a child—at home or riding in a car; at home when getting them ready to sleep and when beginning the next day’s activities. We may not have any idea about frontlets or signs on our hands, but we can let them see us with the Bibles in our hands to guide them. Seize the events happening in your life or theirs to let them see that God can be part of every day.

Later in this chapter, Moses says that we should not just teach our children the laws of God but to make sure they understand the meaning behind the laws. They were not just to teach the regulations about the Sabbath, but to explain how it related to God. In our lives, we do not just bring them to church, but we make sure they sit and learn both how to worship and why we worship. Wise parents will see it not as a time to be distracted by toys or games, but a time to help them join in and be part of worship before God.

This article focused on part-time/full-time parents, but there are other great applications. Just wait and see!

How Many Good Works Are Enough to Save Me? (Part 3 of 4)

By: Selected

The Bible teaches that God requires Christians to engage faithfully in good works (Matt. 7:21; 1 Cor. 15:58; Phil. 2:12; Jas. 2:14-26; 1 John 1:7). The Bible teaches that God conditions salvation from sin and eternity in heaven upon faithful obedience to His commands. Can a Christian receive the crown of life without being faithful (Rev. 2:10)? Can a Christian receive eternal life without doing good (Rom. 2:6-10)? Can a Christian enjoy eternal salvation without continuing to obey Christ (Heb. 5:9)? Scripture is clear.

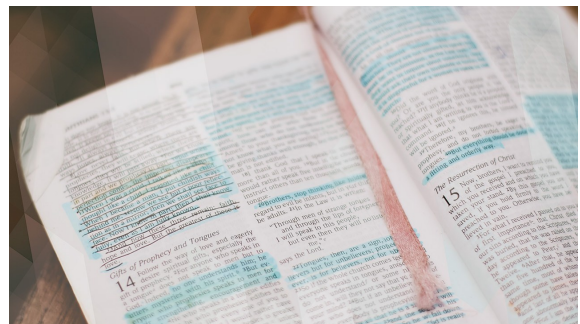
Sometimes there are questions that follow such affirmations from Scripture. Someone might say, “I see what the Bible is saying about doing good works, but how many good works are enough? How can I know if I am doing enough works?”

As humans, it seems natural to want a checklist or a measurement to which we aim and then know that we have “reached the goal” and “done enough” to satisfy the demand. But that’s not how God works. God is not looking to be a certain portion of your life that you can “check off” when you’re done. God wants to be “your life” (Col. 3:4; cf. Phil. 1:20-21).

As you think about “how many good works are enough,” put it in context of the specifics of God’s expectations. God tells us to pray (1 Thess. 5:17)—how many prayers are enough? God tells us to study the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15)—how much studying is enough? God tells us to sing songs to Him and one another (Eph. 5:19)—how many songs are enough? God tells us to give as we have been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2)—how much giving is enough? God tells us to preach the gospel to lost souls (Mark 16:15)—how many people are enough? God tells us to encourage one another (1 Thess. 5:11)—how much encouragement is enough? God tells us to stir

up one another to love and good works (Heb. 10:24)—how much stirring is enough? God tells us to restore erring brethren (Gal. 6:1)—how many restorations is enough? God tells us to visit and help widows (Jas. 1:27)—how much visiting is enough? God tells us to assemble with the saints (Heb. 10:25)—how much assembling is enough? God tells us to do good unto all (Gal. 6:10)—how much doing good is enough?

You see, the Christian life is not about a checklist or a measurement of “how much” is “enough.” It’s about a life that we live. Peter summarized the life of Jesus by saying that He “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). What is the summary of my life? Is it the “good works” for which I have been “created in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:10), as I live this new life for Him (Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17)? Is it going the extra mile for Christ and doing “more” for Him (Matt. 5:41-48)—not because I have to, but because I want to? Has God ever looked at me and asked, “How much is enough for Me to do for him?”



Upcoming Events

May 2-3: Midtown's Challenging the Church with speaker Brant Stubblefield. There will be a pot-luck luncheon after the Sunday morning service. Please bring a dish/dessert to share. The Sunday Afternoon services will begin at 12:45pm.

Sunday, May 10: Monthly Youth devotional after evening services.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Krista Lehtinen and family on the passing of her mother, Cynthia Burris.

Elana Carroll who requested prayers with her new job.

Eddie Serenil who had a heart bypass surgery recently and is at home recovering.

Rieke Bass will be having a biopsy done this coming Tuesday.

Veronica Serenil who will be returning back to work this coming week. Please continue to pray for her health.

Genesis Williams has expressed his desire to work under the oversight of the Elders of the Midtown congregation. His contact information will be coming out soon for your pocket directory and Lightpost app.

Updated Contact Information:

Angela Sneeringer has updated her cell phone number. Labels are on the foyer table to add to your pocket directory.

Service Roster

Week of April 26, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader..... Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Benny Horton

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..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

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

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Cody McCoy
Song Leader..... Jake Jacobs
Devotional..... Benny Horton

Other

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

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Mandi D'Herde.....April 29

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

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

For God did not send His Son into the world to
condemn the world, but that the world through
Him might be saved.
John 3:17

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 19, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....64
A.M. Worship.....80
P.M. Worship.....76
Wednesday Worship.....60

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

Supported Works

Southwest School of Bible Studies

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5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

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