

Where do good works fit into salvation?

The answer is that good works actually HINDER someone's chances to be saved, they do not help their chances to be saved. Now, that may shock some people, because most people have a faulty view that good people go to heaven. The problem with that view, especially as it relates to good works, is what the Bible actually says which is something quite different.

Isaiah 64:6 says, "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags..." Isaiah holds nothing back here! First, you would expect this verse to say our unrighteousnesses are like filthy rags, but he doesn't. He says our "righteousnesses" are like filthy rags. And then he uses a graphic description for "filthy rags" when he uses a Hebrew word that describes a woman's menstrual rags.

Titus 3:5 says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

So, what we actually see the Bible teach is that GOOD WORKS HINDER someone's ability to be saved! Our good works are like "filthy rags" in God's sight, and they actually cause people to depend upon themselves for their own righteousness. But the truth is that NO ONE will get to heaven based upon their own righteousness – it is IMPOSSIBLE. This is why Romans 4:5 says, "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness." Notice it says, "to him who DOES NOT WORK" but to him "who believes" – The Bible teaches WE MUST TRUST ONLY IN THE GOOD WORK OF WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID FOR US ON THE CROSS when He died for our sins, paid their penalty in full, and rose again. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved..." (Acts 16:31)

[Return to DiscoverGodsGrace.org](http://DiscoverGodsGrace.org)

This article was written by Dr. John Clark, pastor of Grace Community Fellowship in Newnan, Georgia (USA). For more information about this topic visit Pastor Clark's [Youtube channel](#) or [DiscoverGod'sGrace.org](#). You may copy, print or distribute this article for yourself, your friends, your church, your Sunday School class or your small group (etc.), providing you do not change the content in any way. This article may not be printed for resale and may not be sold. It is provided free of charge.