



Amazing Works Robert Morris

Focus As believers we have all been saved by grace, a gift from God, so that we might do good works. We are saved *for* good works but not *by* good works. All of us were created by God to do the good works He set before us because our works do matter. Our beliefs determine *where* we will spend eternity, but our works will determine *how* we spend eternity.

Fun What is your craziest, funniest, or most memorable Thanksgiving experience? What do you love most about Thanksgiving and why?

Review Key Scriptures: Ephesians 2:8–10, Ecclesiastes 12:14, Matthew 16:27

- **The Judgment Seat of Christ**

2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10–13

We will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Each of us will be judged according to the things we did or didn't do. Our works matter, and based on these works we will either receive or lose a reward when we stand before God. If we are not completely sold out to God and living a holy and pure life, we will be ashamed and regretful when Christ appears. Every person at the judgment seat of Christ will be a believer, and believers will be rewarded according to their works.

- **The Great White Throne Judgment**

Revelation 20:11–13; Matthew 11:20–24; Romans 2:5

Believers and unbelievers are judged according to their works. There will be different degrees of punishment or reward. God is a just God and He will render justice to everyone. Believers are storing up treasures for themselves

in heaven; however, unbelievers are treasuring up wrath for themselves. We would act differently if we were consistently aware of the rewards we are either storing up or losing based on our works. Every person at the great white throne judgment is an unbeliever, and unbelievers will be punished according to their works.

Group Dynamics Idea

Understanding each person's unique gifts and talents is a great way to bond as a group. Ask each group member to bring something from home that represents one of their unique talents or hobbies: a piece of woodworking, a short story, a poem, a song, etc. After each member shares their creative piece, have them tell the group why this activity or talent is special to them. Look for ways to encourage one another in how these gifts can bring glory to God.

Discuss

1. Have you ever thought about why God created you? If possible, describe why in one or two sentences.
2. Read Ephesians 2:8–10. What stands out to you as you hear this verse? What surprises you the most about this verse?
3. When you think about being judged according to your works, whether good or bad, do you feel hope or dread? Explain.
4. According to 1 Peter 1:17, we are to conduct ourselves throughout the time of our stay on earth in fear. What does this mean to you? Share.
5. All of us will face judgment. For believers, judgment will determine the rewards we receive based on our works whereas unbelievers will receive wrath for sins. Have you personally received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior so that you will be able to face judgment as a believer? If not, would you like to receive Jesus as your Lord right now?
6. Stop and take time to lead your group in the sinner's prayer. Ask everyone to pray aloud with those who are asking Jesus into their hearts. Then take time to celebrate this exciting experience with them.
7. If you were aware on a daily basis that your deeds, whether good or bad, were going to be judged, would your life look any different? If so, how? Explain and share. (As the leader, be prepared to answer this question

yourself. As you lead in a vulnerable way, your group members will feel safer and more willing to be open.)

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Our works reveal what we believe.
- Both believers and unbelievers will be judged.
- Believers will receive rewards, and unbelievers will receive wrath.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are a just God and that through Christ Jesus we can be saved from the wrath to come. We believe You have saved us by grace and that we are to do the good works You prepared for us. Help us to lay aside any distractions or fears that would hinder us. Empower us to boldly serve You in all of our actions and words. We love You and thank You for the great purpose You have for our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip

Take time throughout this coming week to touch base with each member of your group. By sending a card in the mail, making a phone call, or even sending a thoughtful email of encouragement, you will make a significant relational deposit into the members of your group. Ask them how their week is going and if they have any prayer needs. Letting them know they matter is a great way to be actively doing the good works God created you for!