

Solution to Study 0010

- A. Death means a separation from something or someone that has life. And since God is the source of life, we can safely say that a dead thing has no life; or that a dead thing does not have the life of God. (*John 1:1, 4* and *1 John 5:12*)
- B. ‘Works’ on the other hand, are things that we do. They are our deeds, actions, or activities. Two broad kinds of works exist in Christendom. Based on **Hebrews 6:1** and **1 Peter 2:12**, these are dead works, and good works, respectively.
- C. Please identify which of the scriptures below refer to which kind of works.
- *Exodus 23:4-5: Good Works*
 - *Matthew 6:1-4: Dead Works / Good Works*
 - *Matthew 7:21-23: Dead Works*
 - *Acts 5:1-10: Dead Works*
 - *Acts 19:13-17: Dead Works*
 - *1 Timothy 6:17-19: Good Works*
 - *James 1:27: Good Works*
 - *James 2:15-16: Dead Works*
 - *James 4:17: Dead Works*
- D. Please carefully read **Revelation Chapters 2 and 3**, and identify which of the churches were engaged in which of the broad categories of works; and why you have categorized them as such.
- *The Church in Ephesus: though they did some good works which was commended, they left out the most important part of what they should have been doing – they left out their first love (love for God and people), hence they did in summary, Dead Works.*
 - *The Church in Smyrna: even though they had challenges, they did Good Works.*
 - *The Church in Pergamus: some good works, but overall, they did Dead Works. Their teachings were of false doctrines.*
 - *The Church in Thyatira: some good works, but overall Dead Works. They permitted false teachings which encouraged sinful living, and also tolerated such sinful and sensual living among their members.*
 - *The Church in Sardis: although the general consensus among the public was that this was a living church, it was dead; hence Dead Works.*
 - *The Church in Philadelphia: Good Works.*
 - *The Church in Laodecia: they were neither here nor there. They were standing for nothing and falling for everything; thus Dead Works.*
- Note: All the churches that were asked to repent were adjudged to have engaged in Dead Works. Only the churches in Smyrna and Philadelphia were not asked to repent, for their works were adjudged as good by God. Hence, whether our works are adjudged good or dead, is dependent on what God says, not what men may say!*

E. Based on “C” and “D” above, what would you say are the characteristics of dead works?

- (a) *Hypocrisy.*
- (b) *Doing things for show.*
- (c) *Doing works which God did not approve.*
- (d) *Doing things with wrong motives.*
- (e) *Our practices not in agreement with sound scriptural teaching.*
- (f) *Anything that we know is good to do, but that we don't do.*
- (g) *Things done without love for God.*
- (h) *Doctrines that lead to and encourage sin, and sinful living.*
- (i) *Tolerance of sinful living.*
- (j) *Activities which fall short of God's standards.*
- (k) *Double-mindedness.*

Conclusion

In summary, we can say that,

- (1) Dead works are activities/deeds/actions that have no life/are dead; or
- (2) Dead works are activities/deeds/actions which lack the life of God/approval of God.

Also, it is one thing to want to do good works but end up with dead works. In such a case, the problem is with the motive of the individual.