



St. Luke's Lutheran Church & School

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## 1/9/2011 - Faith Before Work

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*Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)*

"No playing until you finish your work." I still hear my father's voice today when I tell my children, "work first, then play." When it comes to Christianity, people have always adored good works, placing them higher than faith. The world values good works so highly that they claim faith isn't even necessary if enough work is done. As forgiven Christians we know that God accomplished the work of salvation for us first. God made us into forgiven children by joining us to the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The truth is God's work of salvation and faith is first before we start to work.

If we are to get more work accomplished for the Lord in 2011, to be better spouses, parents, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, God must work first in us. When the Lord works faith in his children, then true joy, peace, good works and play starts. Remember Zaccheus? When God worked faith in his heart, he burst with joy and overflowed with good works of his own. Right on the spot he repaid everyone he took advantage of and stole from.



May the Lord work first in all of us, so that we might enjoy playing in God's kingdom in 2011.