

Passage: Ephesians 2:8-10

Title: You are God's Poem

Summary: Surely, we have reached the summit of the New Testament here in this passage. Our passage today summarizes the greatest gift (everlasting salvation), from the greatest lover (God's own heart), and God's greatest thoughts of you (His masterpiece). When, if we, can fully comprehend what is declared to us in these verses, we will live in power, we will live in peace, we will be secure in our salvation, and secure in our identity (not just in the life to come, but the life here now), we will walk a walk that nothing in this world can move or diminish. Oh, what a passage that is before us today.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn’t ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it” . Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

****We have to know who we are in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 questions. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Today's Passage:

*Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)*⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Is Saved
- Is Boastless (PTL)
- Is God's Workmanship (Masterpiece)

- Is God's Poem
- Is Created for Good Works

Position

- Is Safe and Secure
- Is in Christ Jesus

Promise

- Saved by Grace (which is a Gift)
- Saved through Faith (which is a Gift)
- Will do Good Works

Why it Matters to You

Surely, we have reached the summit of the New Testament here in this passage. Our passage today summarizes the greatest gift (everlasting salvation), from the greatest lover (God's own heart), and God's greatest thoughts of you (His masterpiece). When, if we, can fully comprehend what is declared to us in these verses, we will live in power, we will live in peace, we will be secure in our salvation, and secure in our identity (not just in the life to come, but the life here now), we will walk a walk that nothing in this world can move or diminish. Oh, what a passage that is before us today.

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

***Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

***Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Saved = Safe / To be Made Whole – Made Alive

Verse eight, saved means safe. We are saved which means safe from the wrath to come and that's for breaking the penalty of God's law. The word is used to deliver or rescue from danger or harm. But the word also goes on even deeper as it is used to mean "to make whole, to heal, to restore, to make well". The word goes well beyond just being saved from destruction, but to be made whole and as we studied last week, to be made alive.

How to be Saved – By Grace / How Not – by Works

Verse eight tells us how to be saved and that is by grace. Verse nine tells us how you can't be saved and that is by works.

In verses 8-9, it's the amplification of verse 5. The original language is a definite article, it's the grace meaning the only grace. In the Greek, it begins with what's called a postposition for which could be translated because of the, different article grace, you are saved.

***Ephesians 2:4–5 (NKJV)** ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

Salvation – Grace – Faith (are All Gifts) / Giftwrapped and Presented to You

Verse eight says, not only is salvation a gift by the gift of grace, but the faith to believe the grace for salvation is a gift also it's all a gift nothing that man can boast of.

It's a gift and here presented to you is a gift-wrapped box beautifully wrapped and if you look closely it has your name on it and it has this beautiful bow on the gift. God has given you a gift and he's handing it to you with your name on it extending it to you and the gift is He's Jesus Christ God's gift to you.

If I was to stand here today with a gift, beautifully wrapped, and said here I want to give you this gift..... surely you would not say ok let me do 100 pushups for you and then I will receive it, not would you say let me go feed the poor, or read 30 chapters, or keep a bunch of rules first, and then I will come and receive this gift from you. No you would simply receive the gift. Yet for something inside so many people, that is how the gift of salvation is approached. It is a gift, and gifts are freely received from the person giving them, or..... some people will say, I don't want a gift from you, you can keep it. They don't want the gift, because gifts are through relationships, and some people don't want a gift from another because they don't want a relationship with that person. I think you see the point I am making regarding Christ, as some people don't want His free gift, because they don't want the relationship that comes with the gift.

Ephesians 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Not of Works – No Boasting (PTL)

Verse nine, there will be no boasting for what works could compare to the works of the cross if you really consider it, yet man can shine his works and feel good about it then feel great because they fed the poor or they were reading 10 chapters a day or they were people of prayer and they did good works. And that is beautiful, and it does shine until you come and put it into the light of the brilliance of the cross, then the shine of works becomes dull and dingy compared to the shine that says it is done. The Light of the World was He who hung upon the cross.

John 8:12 (NKJV)¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

What Works We Can Do - Believe

Verse nine, Oh praise the Lord that it's not of works, how exhausting the thought if it was of works and that I would have to work to get it. Because not only is it exhausting the thought of getting it but then obviously if it is by works you'd have to keep working to keep it and then you would always be finding yourself wondering if you've done enough to get it and are you doing enough to keep it.

Verse nine, there are works that man can do and we're told the works that we're expected to do is simply that we believe and so we can see that there are works for salvation then there's works after salvation but none of those are for to get and to have salvation. The works for salvation is that we simply believe, the works after salvation we're told faith without works is dead, the works after salvation are simply an output, a response to the change that is in us.

John 6:28-29 (NKJV)²⁸ Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

James 2:26 (NKJV)²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

There's an old saying, "Good works never make us fit for God, but God does make us fit for good works."

PTL – Not of Works (Else I Would Always be Wondering)

Verse nine, imagine if it is works and the fact that we have to work, just the thought of it makes us have to imagine proves that salvation is not of works. I find it interesting, in James:2 we're told keep the whole law and if you're guilty and fail at one point you're guilty of them all. But I find it very interesting that people who are on a works trip for salvation, they never question the law, they never say keeping the law. And the reason is because they know in their heart they're guilty and they've already failed the law and therefore the works

they want to do can't be the keeping of the law because they've already failed and therefore they're guilty. So what they do is they change the list of works and they make up a work, it's seven sacraments as you'll read in the Catholic church or for some it's the baptism to be saved or communion or confession, these type of things. The big ones always Sabbath keeping the Sabbath, which I still say, well, what is good enough on the Sabbath? What are the rules on the Sabbath? And what you'll find is people are making their own rules up about what it means to keep the Sabbath. They say, well, you don't do this and you don't do that on the Sabbath and that's works and that salvation to which you just go by whose means and who standards? What have if missed one, what of your list is one short? What of your list is a hundred short? How do you truly know? There's not a clear list in the Bible that says if you want to be saved, here's what you have to do to keep the Sabbath. Even the Jewish people, they made up their own lists trying to figure out, well, what does this truly mean? And man still tries to do it even on the other side of the cross.

- The Catholic church has seven sacraments, well, if there's eight or 20? How do they know they got all the right sacraments? By the way, the Catholic Church we say salvation is not by the works of sacraments, but if you press in on asking how to be saved, they eventually will say one, if not all the seven are required in some way.
- The Jehovah witnesses knock on doors, but what if they're ones short? What if they were knocked on a million doors in their life and find out that it was supposed to be one million and one doors? How do you know what is satisfying for works?
- And here's one I even say for the Sabbath keepers who now say you have to keep the Sabbath and that's on Saturday. I ask, how do you know today's truly Saturday? If you really want to get down to it, how do you know that today in this calendar that we all live to that it's really Saturday? If you go into the Bible and search for the word Sabbath, you'll find it a couple of hundred times. Go into the Bible and search for the word Saturday, you won't find it at all, nor will you find Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Sunday. You don't find a day a week in the Bible. And so if I'm a Sabbath keeper, I should be worried because you're not going to find the true day that the Sabbath is. And you could be wrong, you could be keeping Saturday and we're all really living that it's Thursday.

Only two days I need to be sure out for salvation. And those two days are the death of Jesus Christ and it doesn't matter what day that happened, truly, but Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sin. And then the next day I need to know was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We know it was the first day of the week. It doesn't matter what the first day of the week was, according to today's calendar, all that it is, is that we know that Jesus Christ died and He Rose again and that He took my sin and the substitution was accepted because He took my sin and buried it in the cross and He Rose again on the third day. If the substitution of Him trading places wasn't acceptable, God would have left Him in the grave, but He rose again. Romans 10:9 and 1 Corinthians 15.

James 2:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV) ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Luke 24:46–48 (NKJV) ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Verse 10 – Nestled Between Two Gospel Proclamations

In verses 2:1-9 is the gospel, and again in 2:11-13 is the gospel again, but somewhere right here, nudged and nestled in, is verse 10 put in the middle of this and it's amazing. Why so? Because Verse 10 lets us know why God saves, the heart of God in salvation.

Workmanship - Poem

Verse 10, the word "workmanship" means poem. Let me read you a beautiful poem from the Song of Solomon of what God thinks of you. Let's not lose the context verse seven ties in here in our passage here in verse 10, you are trophies of grace and His poem. A poem is a work of art from the artists seeking to express himself in his work. You are God's poem, His workmanship and He wants to express Himself in you and through you.

Ephesians 2:7 (NKJV)⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Song of Solomon

Song of Solomon 4:7-9 (NKJV)⁷ You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you. ⁸ Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, With me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions' dens, From the mountains of the leopards. ⁹ You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart With one look of your eyes, With one link of your necklace.

Beloved ready for this? We're told we are his walking poem and back in verse seven we were held up as his trophy of grace and here in verse 10 we're being told we are his walking poem and a poem is the artist's expression of his work. It is His work the poem that we want to work express, we are His poem.

Workmanship means work of art. He is God thus, the work of art is a masterpiece.

Back to the Garden

Verse 10 created, takes us back to the garden, God's original creation.

God creating His Masterpiece.

So he made this masterpiece, you and I. God is a wonderful artist; consider the beauty of a sunset, a sandy beach, the Shenandoah Valley; yet in all their beauty, God considers them nothing compared to us.

The definition of Masterpiece in Websters dictionary is, "a persons greatest piece of work, as in an art; a fine example of skill or work. I like the compound structure of this word Masterpiece, master and piece – the Master's Piece. A masterpiece is made by the Master, not some underling or junior apprentice.

This masterpiece – the human body:

- is made up of 60 trillion cells.
- The nose can detect 10, 000 different smells
- The tongue has 6,000 taste buds
- The brain has 10 billion nerve cells
- The blood vessels linked together would circle the earth 2.5 times
- It would take 200, 000 pages to print out our DNA code.
- The Brain stores enough data to fill 7 million books.

If you want to see the Master at work, we have to go back to the beginning – Genesis. In the beginning God...

We see the repeated statement: **it was good.**

(Genesis 1:1) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

(Genesis 1:4) And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

(Genesis 1:10) And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:12) And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:18) *And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.*

(Genesis 1:21) *And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

(Genesis 1:25) *And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

But now notice in verse 31, God creates man and He says....**it was very good**

(Genesis 1:26 NKJV) *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

(Genesis 1:27 NKJV) *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

(Genesis 1:28 NKJV) *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

(Genesis 1:29 NKJV) *And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.*

(Genesis 1:30 NKJV) *"Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.*

(Genesis 1:31 NKJV) *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

At the end of every day of creation God said "it was good", until the sixth day, when God said "it was very good". The word "very" as used here is used often with other words to intensify them; in this case it would mean especially good, exceedingly good, great. Why did God say it was so good? Because in His final act of creation, He created man.

The Hebrew word for man used here is "adam", but it is used in its generic sense meaning "mankind". So here we see God is talking about the entire human race, and that includes you and me. And God said it was **VERY** good. The creation of man was God putting the crowning jewel on top of His creation. And He said "it was **VERY** good" Adam was first, but it very well could have been us, for we are man, created in God's image.

(Gen 2:7 NKJV) *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

God spoke the world into existence, but to create man He got His hands dirty. God didn't create from a distance, He was intimately involved with each detail.

Man became a living soul: When I read the Bible I like to put myself in the story, like I was standing right there, I leave the black and white pages and enter into the story. So picture the day, a semi tropical climate, the lush green garden, a cool mist coming out of the ground, and along comes the Lord. We know from Scripture that wherever the Lord is, all eyes are upon Him. When Jesus walked the earth everywhere He went all eyes were upon Him. When Jesus returns all eyes will turn to see Him, God is the center of His creation. So can you picture all the animals in the garden? When God passed every eye turned to Him, but He didn't just pass, He stopped and started to do something in the dirt. The attention of all the animals are locked in on what He is doing. A lion comes over cocking his head in wonderment, two beavers leave the water to get a closer look, a giraffe uses his height advantage to get a better look, some squirrels hang out on branches to get a bird's-eye view, and a few rabbits hop over to watch. They all watch in silence as God puts some dirt here, some dirt there, and begins to shape it.

The word used here in Genesis 2:7 for "formed" is the exact same Hebrew word used for "potter" in Jeremiah 18. The picture it brings to mind here in the garden is God forming Adam just as a potter

forming a piece of clay. God knew specifically what He was going to make when He started to form Adam.

(Jeremiah 18:1-6 NKJV) *The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"*

(Isaiah 64:8 KJV) *But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*

I am reminded of a Pastor and his wife, and they go around the world ministering at churches. She sings, and he gives a teaching about this verse, while he gives a live demonstration on how to make a pot. One thing I'll never forget him saying, who is considered to be a Master Potter, which is no small claim, in other words he is considered one of the best in the world. He said that every time he begins with that lump of clay, he doesn't even see the clay, but only the finished product, he sees that beautiful finished product. So too with God, for he is the Master of Master Potters.

Now, picture it, with every move of the Master's hand a distinguishable form begins to appear, can you imagine the joy God had as He formed Adam's face, the face He would look at and fellowship with for 930 years. Then after all the shaping was complete I picture God leaning back to stop and admire what He had fashioned. All the animals remain silenced wondering what is it, and then the Creator of the universe leans forward, possibly chest to chest, and breaths life into the nostrils of Adam. The Creator stands, then He extends His hands and lifts Adam to His feet and presents him to the rest of His creation. At this point the garden erupts into a euphoric cheer, lions are roaring, monkeys screeching and shaking the trees, squirrels chattering, and birds singing. All of creation rejoicing, the animals in amazement at the beauty of God's creation, the crown of God's creation, MAN.

How precious we are to God for we are the crown of His creation. Am I being a little too dramatic here? I don't think so, we may argue over what is the most beautiful species on the planet, a man, a lion, kola bear, etc; but never what is the most precious. For it was man that Jesus Christ became, and it was for man that Jesus Christ died.

God didn't stop creating with Adam, but He is active in the creation of every one of us. And the same love and interest that God put into Adam, He puts into us.

(Psalms 139:13-16 NKJV) *For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. (14) I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. (15) My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. (16) Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.*

In verse 15 the word "wrought" means "embroiderer, needlework", the picture it gives us is God with a needle and thread, ever so patiently making us. God being so interested in every little detail of how he makes us, bringing the fabric together into a beautiful piece of art. For that's what needlework is, it is art. God considers us His piece of art, His poemia.

Now that we have seen and understood the work of art, the Masterpiece we are to God, now we can see why He would go to the length and pain of the Cross at Calvary to redeem us; why He would be willing to give His only begotten son to suffer the shame and pain of the cross. We are the object that God wants to pour all of His love out upon. Just as we did no work in our creation, we do no work in our salvation....we just freely receive this gift.

We Are Twice His (Made & Bought)

A childhood story sums all this up. A little boy made a sailboat one-day with the help of his father. He got the wood from a tree, he used his dad's tools to shape the boat. He made the sail with some fabric. Then he sanded and sanded the hull until it was smooth. Then he painted it his favorite color. The day came and he took out to the stream, put it in the water and watched it float. Pride and joy filled his heart. But a sudden wind came and pushed the boat out into deeper water and the boy couldn't get it, then it drifted out into the current and started down the river. The little boy followed as long as he could, but eventually it drifted out of sight. A heartbroken boy. Weeks later he and his father are downtown, and they pass a hobby shop, and there in the window was his boat. He said father I want to buy my boat back, his father said son at that price it will cost you everything you have....the boy said it will be worth it. As he walked home with his boat, he held it tight in his arms, joyful that it was his again, and he said, "I made you and I bought you, you are twice mine."

This is what Jesus would say to us today, "I made you and I bought you, you are twice mine."

Since Saved – Now Do Good Works

Verse 10, it doesn't say, now I created you and saved you, now go do good works, that's not what it means at all. It means since I saved you, you're now equipped to go do good works.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Real Estate – Location is Everything – We Are In Christ Jesus

The saved person is "in Christ Jesus", and as the real estate principal goes, the 3 main keys of property value is.... Location, location, and location. Location is everything. Verse 10, the key to good works is in Christ, that's where the power source is. It says, prepared beforehand, God has prepared good works for you.

Moses

Moses, he had prepared good works for Moses, trained and taught in the house of Pharaoh, then he goes to the back end of the wilderness. All part of his preparation. He comes and he leads the Exodus of Egypt with nothing but a rod in his hand. It doesn't take much to do great works for God. He buries the whole enemy of Israel in the red sea. He spends 40 years leading and keeping the nation. He's given the good works to be the one who comes and delivers and proclaims the 10 commandments to the nation of Israel.

Joseph

Joseph, he was prepared for good works, he had a dream and he ends up in a pit. Yes, a pit, but he stayed faithful and that was good works, just like Moses was on the backside of the wilderness, that was good works. Joseph, he ends up in Potiphar's house, he's number two in the house. That's good works. He ends up in another pit, they're in prison, but he stayed faithful, there's another round of good works for all to see and give God glory. Then he becomes second in the kingdom and through that he saves a whole nation. God would say, Moses, I prepared this for you, God would say Joseph, I prepared this for you. And God says, Ray, this is what I have prepared for you. I have good works prepared for you, for your whole life and through your works you will bring me glory and all the world will see me. And the point of the good works is that all men might be drawn to him.

Come Full Circle

Full circle verse two, how once walked to how we now walk, in verse 10 it was full circle, in verse two we started with how we once walked and now we see how we are to walk with good works.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV) 1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

So I think this is important place to point out what I call "Holy Grace" and Dangerous Grace". In holy grace a person sees what they have been rescued from, sinning against THE HOLY GOD, and give praise for it, and

live as we have studied here in chapter 2. Dangerous grace is for those people who say I am saved by grace, I received the gift, but..... They still live like verses 2-3. They don't live like

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

God Has Good Works Prepared for You / So Live Like It- Believe It

God has good works prepared for you and the question is what has God prepared for you? Here's the first question. Do you believe that he has? We think inward but equally so think outward, change the way we think we have been created for good works, therefore we can do good works. Now the question is, will we live like it? Will we leave here and say I've been created for good works and therefore I'm going to go and do good works for the glory of God. And it simply comes in and says, Lord, what are the good works that you have prepared for me today, tomorrow and for the rest of my life.

We need to live like it, we need to change the way we think that we can and will do good works because that's what God has created us for. Our lives are the canvas on which God paints. On which He expresses His thoughts, and will, and heart.

I think in the simplicity of it, it just comes down to go, I believe it. That I've been created and been planned to do good works, and so I simply believe it and therefore enter into what are the good works that you want to perform through me, Lord.

I definitely have a tendency to say, "Oh, not me." I think we all have that sin, that tendency to go, "God would never use me, or at least not in a big way, not in a great way. Maybe God will only use me in a little way." I think we need to come and simply believe, "God, you want to use me. You will use me."

We have clearly established God's sovereignty and man's free will through our studies and what I want to say I can have all the Jesus Christ I want but not one drop more. I can limit God on how much He gives me or better says, I can limit God on how much I allow Him to flow through me in these good works.

God's good works are ready to flow for us, we have to decide how wide I want to turn on the spicket.

James 1 says, if a man doubts don't think he will be receiving from the Lord to do these good works.

James 1:5–8 (NKJV) ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Conclusion:

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Is Saved
- Is Boastless (PTL)
- Is God's Workmanship (Masterpiece)
- Is God's Poem
- Is Created for Good Works

Position

- Is Safe and Secure
- Is in Christ Jesus

Promise

- Saved by Grace (which is a Gift)
- Saved through Faith (which is a Gift)
- Will do Good Works

Why it Matters to You

Surely, we have reached the summit of the New Testament here in this passage. Our passage today summarizes the greatest gift (everlasting salvation), from the greatest lover (God's own heart), and God's greatest thoughts of you (His masterpiece). When, if we, can fully comprehend what is declared to us in these verses, we will live in power, we will live in peace, we will be secure in our salvation, and secure in our identity (not just in the life to come, but the life here now), we will walk a walk that nothing in this world can move or diminish. Oh, what a passage that is before us today.

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

End of Study