

Sunday Morning Sermon

7/19/2026

God's Masterpiece: Created on Purpose, for a Purpose

Ephesians 2:8-10

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

(Ephesians 2:8-10, KJV)

Introduction: The Master's Signature

Have you ever walked through an art museum? You can tell when you're standing in front of a masterpiece. People gather around it. They study it. They admire every detail.

Sometimes the value isn't in the painting's in the signature.

A painting by an unknown artist may sell for a few dollars, but if the signature at the bottom says **Picasso**, **Rembrandt**, or **Monet**, its value changes dramatically.

Can I tell you something this morning?

You have God's signature on your life.

You are not an accident.

You are not a mistake.

You are not forgotten.

Paul says - "We are His workmanship."

Definition – Greek Word used **poiēma** (poy-AY-mah).

Strong's Greek - (poiēma) denotes a product of creative action, a workmanship, handiwork, or thing made. While the English word "poem" owes its origin to this term, the New Testament uses it not for literary art but to highlight divine craftsmanship, whether in the material universe or in the redeemed community.

Occurrences in Scripture

1. Romans 1:20 anchors the word in the realm of natural creation: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse".

2. Ephesians 2:10 moves the term into the sphere of salvation history: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life". Greek word is **poiēma**, where we get our English word **poem**.

Paul's pairing of the word with "creation" (Romans 1:20) and "created in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:10) establishes a biblical pattern: the same God who spoke galaxies into existence also regenerates dead sinners (Ephesians 2:1-5). The new creation thus surpasses the first in glory, as it not only reflects God's power but also His grace.

Think about that.

You are God's poem.

You are God's masterpiece.

You are His workmanship.

But here's the problem...

Many Christians know they're saved, but they don't know why they're still here.

They've accepted Jesus but never discovered God's purpose.

God didn't save you just to take you to Heaven.

He saved you so Heaven could shine through you.

God Has You Where You Are for a Reason

One of the greatest questions Christians ask is,

"Why am I here?"

Not just, "Why am I alive?"

But...

- "Why this job?"
- "Why this neighborhood?"
- "Why this school?"
- "Why this season of life?"

The answer is found in Ephesians 2:10.

God has already prepared works for you to do, and He has strategically placed you exactly where those works can happen.

Acts 17:26 says,

"...and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."

God determined when you would be born and where you would live.

That means your address isn't an accident.

- Your workplace isn't an accident.
- Your family isn't an accident.
- Your gifts aren't an accident.

1. God Has You Where You Are to Influence Others

You may be the only Bible some people ever read.

The people you work with...

The people you coach...

The people who sit beside you in school...

The neighbors across the street...

God put you there because someone needs to see Jesus through you.

Jesus said,

"Let your light so shine before men..."

Light doesn't help much if it stays inside the church.

It shines best in dark places.

I. God's Work IN You

"For by grace are ye saved..."

Before God ever works through us...

He must first work in us.

Paul begins with grace.

Notice what he doesn't say.

He doesn't say, - "You earned salvation."

He doesn't say, - "You cleaned yourself up."

He doesn't say, - "You deserved another chance."

He says...

"By grace."

Grace is God's Riches at Christ's Expense.

It is receiving what we could never deserve.

We Were Dead

Earlier in Ephesians Paul says...

"You were dead in trespasses and sins."

- Dead people can't improve themselves.
- Dead people need resurrection.

That's exactly what Jesus did.

- He didn't improve us.
 - He made us alive.
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Illustration: The Caterpillar

A caterpillar cannot decide to become a butterfly.

It cannot glue wings on itself.

Transformation happens from the inside.

When Christ comes into our lives...

He doesn't just change our behavior.

He changes our nature.

Religion says, - "Try harder."

Jesus says, - "Be made new."

Application

Some of you still define yourself by your past.

- Divorced.
- Addict.
- Failure.
- Abused.
- Broken.

Can I remind you?

God doesn't call you by your past.

He calls you by His workmanship.

The cross settled your identity.

II. God's Work **THROUGH** You

"Created in Christ Jesus unto good works..."

Notice the order.

We are **not saved BY good works.**

We are saved **FOR good works.**

Works don't produce salvation.

Salvation produces works.

A changed heart always changes a life.

Illustration: The Lighthouse

A lighthouse doesn't run around looking for ships.

It simply stands where it was built...

Shining.

The light saves lives.

Church...

That's our calling.

Not to hide.

Not to blend in.

But to shine.

Jesus said,

"You are the light of the world."

What Do Good Works Look Like?

Sometimes we think good works must be huge.

- Mission trips.
- Preaching.
- Building churches.

But often...

Good work looks ordinary.

- Helping a neighbor.
- Praying for someone.
- Forgiving someone who hurt you.
- Encouraging someone who's discouraged.
- Sharing your testimony.
- Giving generously.
- Serving faithfully.
- Changing diapers.
- Loving your spouse.
- Teaching your children about Jesus.

Sometimes the holiest thing you'll do this week is simply love someone who's hard to love.

III. God's Work FOR You

"...which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

This may be my favorite part.

God already prepared the path.

You don't have to invent your purpose.

You discover it.

God isn't making up a plan as He goes.

He already knows.

Every conversation.

Every opportunity.

Every person you'll meet.

Every open door.

God has gone before you.

Illustration: GPS

Think about your GPS.

Sometimes it tells you,

"Turn right."

But you think,

"I know a better way."

Five minutes later...

You're stuck in traffic.

Eventually GPS calmly says,

"Recalculating."

Isn't that just like us?

God says,

"This is the way."

We say,

"I've got a better plan."

Then life falls apart.

The good news...

God is gracious enough to keep saying,

"Come back."

God Has Prepared Good Works

Maybe your purpose is...

- Being the Christian in your workplace.
- Raising godly children.
- Mentoring a young believer.
- Serving in children's ministry.
- Leading a Bible study.
- Helping the poor.
- Encouraging loneliness.
- Giving generously.
- Sharing Christ with a friend.

God has already prepared opportunities this week.

The question isn't,

"Does God have a purpose?"

The question is,

Will I walk in it?

A Challenge

Imagine if every believer woke up tomorrow morning praying...

"Lord...

Show me the good works You've prepared for me today."

What would happen?

- Marriages would heal.
- Communities would change.
- People would come to Christ.
- Churches would be revived.

Not because of great programs...

But because ordinary people walked in extraordinary obedience.

Conclusion: The Pencil Story

A pencil maker gave these instructions to every pencil before it left the factory.

"There are five things you must remember.

- First...
You will accomplish great things only if you allow yourself to be held in someone's hand.

- Second...
You will experience painful sharpening.
- Third...
You will make mistakes, but they can be corrected.
- Fourth...
The most important part of you is what's on the inside.
- Fifth...
Leave your mark wherever you're used."

Isn't that the Christian life?

- God holds us.
- God sharpens us.
- God forgives us.
- God works inside us.
- Then He sends us to leave His mark on the world.

Invitation

Maybe today you've never experienced God's work **in** you.

Salvation begins with grace.

You don't earn it.

You receive it.

Maybe you're saved...

But you've stopped allowing God to work **through** you.

Maybe you've been wandering and need to return to His purpose.

Today...

Come back to the Master.

Let Him keep writing His masterpiece.

Because...

You are not an accident.

You are not forgotten.

You are God's workmanship... created in Christ Jesus... for good works... which He prepared long before you ever arrived.

Walk in them.