

# God's Masterpiece

Ephesians 2:8-22

## INTRODUCTION

“Magnum Opus”

1. A great work, especially a literary or artistic masterpiece.
2. The greatest single work of an artist, writer, or composer.
3. A great work of art or literature.
4. The greatest work or achievement of a particular artist, writer, or other individual, representing his major life effort.

Today, I want to look at why the Church is the masterpiece, the “*poeima*” (POYeema), the Magnum Opus of God, the handiwork, the new Creation of God.

## Saved by Grace Through Faith (vs. 8-10)

*<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

“by grace”

“through faith”

Faith here simply means that by the God's grace and with His help, we came to a place that we **believed** and **received** the Gospel message. Meaning, not only did we come to understand intellectually the Gospel and believed it, but we *received* it in a very real act of faith for ourselves.

*<sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— John 1:12*

Paul uses two phrases here to describe this salvation:

- This is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God
- This is not by works, so that no one can boast.

Related passage: John 1:12; Romans 11:35

## **Remember You Were Separated from Christ (vs. 11-13)**

*<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—*

*<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

Related passage: 1 Peter 2:9-10

## **But Now You Have Been Brought Near (13-18)**

*<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

### **Brought Near to One Another (14-15)**

*<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace...*

Related passage: Acts 15

### **Brought Near to God (16-18)**

*<sup>16</sup> ...and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

## **For We Are God’s Masterpiece (19-22, 10)**

- You’re Citizens of His Holy Nation—He is your God and King (vs. 19a)
- You’re Sons and Daughters in His Family—He is your Loving Father (vs. 19b)
- You’re His Dwelling Place—He lives IN you by His Spirit (vs. 20-22)

## **Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion**

1. What does it mean that we are saved by grace and through faith?
2. Why is it completely ridiculous to boast regarding our righteousness before God or man?
3. Describe the relationship between Jews and Gentiles before Christ?
4. How has made us one?
5. Why is the Church uniquely God’s “masterpiece”?