

The Church: God's Workmanship Created in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 2:8-10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Our good works are not in response to God's gracious initiative, but are part of it.

Simon Austen

Re-cap of Ephesians 2:1 - 7:

What were we like? (vs. 1 - 3) - *dead in transgressions and sins...*

What did God do? (vs. 4 - 6) - *But God... made us alive with Christ...*

Why did God do it? (vs. 7) - *In order to show the incomparable riches of His grace...*

How did God do it? (vs. 8 - 10) - *Saved by grace... through faith... to do good works.*

1. Saved by grace... through faith (vs. 8 - 9)

2. Saved from good works... for good works (vs. 10)

Questions for Reflection:

a. When Paul talks about being 'saved' in this passage, what are we saved from?

b. What might the 'boasting' of salvation (vs. 9) sound like and what does it reveal?

c. Give some examples of how you see God's 'workmanship' in your life?



Personal Study Notes

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith
--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

⁹ *not by works, so that no one can boast.*

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

2:7-10 The work of reconciliation in these verses is described with four key terms:

- (1) "kindness" God's loving tender action;
- (2) "grace" God's free favor toward ill-deserving people
(a favorite term of the apostle, used over 100 times in his letters);
- (3) "faith" the instrument that brings us empty-handed to God (*see [Rm 10:12](#)*); and
- (4) "saved" equated with new life, forgiveness of sins, deliverance from the plight described in [verses 1-3](#), liberation, and resurrection

Insights Gained:

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

- 1)
- 2)

