



“Grace that Works”

The Church’s Calling

Ephesians 2:8-10

God’s Grace can make us :

I. Blessed - “are ye saved” (v. 8-9)

God’s blessing on us is:

- A. **Grace (by His)** – “For by grace”
- B. **Gift (through His)** – “it is the gift of God”
- C. **Glory (for His)** – “lest any man should boast”

II. Beautiful – “For we are” (v. 10)

God’s blessing gives a glimpse of His :

- A. **Expression** – “we are His workmanship”

Concept of glorifying God = give them a better impression

- B. **Expertise** - “created”

Making something awesome out of chaos

- C. **Expectation** – “in Christ Jesus”

God thinks holiness is beautiful – you may or may not agree

III. Beneficial - “good works” (v. 10)

God’s blessing to others through us:

- A. **Specifically** – “God hath before ordained”
- B. **Specially** – “that we should”

C. Systematically – “walk in them”

God has not only prepared us for good works when He made us His workmanship, He has also prepared good works for us.

Why does God tell us that He planned these good works ? For our encouragement. It means that we can relax and know that God has planned the course of our Christian service. It means that we can trust Him for His leading.

Conclusion:

Queen Victoria often visited the poor and humble. In one humble cottage, when she asked what she could do for the resident, the happy Christian told her, “There is nothing I need, I am perfectly content.”

“But I wish to do something for you,” she replied.

“Then promise me one thing.”

“I’ll do what I can.”

“Promise you’ll meet me in heaven.”

The queen replied, “I will surely meet you there, on the merit of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Sentence Sermon:

“We are God’s Poem that Others will Read in Their time of Need.”

Additional Verses

- Matthew 21:31
- Galatians 2:16
- Luke 19:30
- Mark 16:16
- Acts 2:38
- Colossians 2:12-13
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Titus 2:11-14
- Titus 3:1, 8, 14
- Romans 1:20

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Do verses 8 and 9 seem redundant to you?
What concepts are being emphasized?
- 2. What parallels do you see between what we are in Christ and poetry?
- 3. What concepts are inherent in something being “ordained?”
- 4. What constitutes “good” works?
- 5. What good are “good works?”

V. 8

- For
- By grace = literally “by *the* grace” definite article included to point to previous mention in verse 7
 - “charis” similar to the word for gift but different still.
- Are ye saved = past tense as something already accomplished...not hoping someday to be in heaven if God smiles upon me...no God has smiled upon you and if you have received Christ ...you are saved...done deal.
- Through faith = Faith is the needed response to God’s Grace...simply to receive a gift is all need to have the gift.
- That not of your selves = it is not originated from you or produced from you...it is foreign to you until you receive it from God.
- **It is = neuter** referring to salvation...not grace or faith ...both are feminine
- The gift of God = gift or present which helps or honors ...lifts up
 - **" This word is "doron." "Doron" focuses upon the fact that the gift has been given (from "didomi", "to give").**

V. 9

- Not of works = Salvation is ...that isstill same sentence with same antecedent
- There is an old story that tells of a man who was traveling on his donkey when he came upon a small fuzzy object lying in the road. He dismounted to look more closely and found a sparrow lying on its back with its scrawny legs thrust upward. At first he thought the bird was dead, but closer investigation proved it to be very much alive. The man asked the sparrow if he was all right. The sparrow replied, "Yes." The man asked, "What are you doing lying on your back with your legs pointed towards the sky?" The sparrow responded that he had heard a rumor that the sky was falling, and so he was holding his legs up to catch it. The man retorted, "You surely don't think that you're going to hold it up with those two scrawny legs, do you?" The sparrow, with a very solemn look, replied, "One does the best he can."
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- Lest any man = not that any of us would
- Should boast = to boast or glory... accept credit or acclaim
 - Ford employees are graded on a scale of 1 to 27. 1 would be given to clerks and secretaries whereas 27 is chairman of the board. You must reach grade 9 to receive an outside parking place. Grade 13 brings with it such perks as a window, plants and an intercom system. Grade 16 offices come equipped with private bathrooms.

V. 10

- For we = literally "we" is first in sentence
- Are His workmanship = "poemia" a work or art or His literary work or poem often Fiction. What others may not see as possible, God sees as not only the potential but He builds plans on it.
 - "workmanship" is NOT related to the word for "works" which is used in verses 9 and 10.
 - "Workmanship" - it comes from the simple root word which describes "doing" something. *The only other place where this specific word is found is in Romans 1:20 where it describes the "things which are made."* Thus, this passage tells us that we are "the result of God's doing."
- Created = like God's old creation...but we are made new creations
 - *the wonders of the universe.*
 - *strand of our DNA contains more information than the most complex computer.*
 - *more wonderful still is that God is making the very character of Christ in us.*
- In Christ Jesus = through salvation and all that goes with those spiritual blessings
- Unto = epi ... preposition indicating purpose or goal.
- Good works = literally "works good"

- Which God hath ordained = language refers to a period of time before the action and describes the means which the results are secured
 - ... *When* God saves you – he saves you for more, much more that you can possibly imagine – because the good works he has prepared for you is a life after his likeness, after his image, where you are moving towards him and becoming more like him who is of infinite greatness and worth in his beauty, majesty, power, perfection, love, kindness, mercy, peace, security, hope above any thing in your life and my life. There is no limits to the infinite greatness and worth of God which he has saved you to and *now shares with you.*“ Eugene Hor
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- That we should = not that we will but we should...exercise of our will.
 - a. *“be ready for every good work” - Titus 3:1*
 - b. *“be careful to maintain good works” - Titus 3:8*
 - c. *“learn to maintain good works” - Titus 3:14*
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- Walk = indicating movement which ends in a definite spot... (*compare with verse 2*)
- in them = God’s good works is where we should always end each of our adventures.