

**Ephesians 2: 10; “We are His Workmanship”, Message # 14 in a series entitled –  
“The Exceeding Greatness of His Power”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall  
on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the Morning Worship Service.**

At this time I would like you to think with me about what it means for you to be God’s workmanship. If you are a true Christian you are a new creature. As one of His people, by faith in Jesus Christ, you will be walking in the good works which God prepared beforehand for you to do. We see here that 1<sup>st</sup> of all – Paul is declaring that our great salvation is not our work, but God’s work. And we need to see it that way. 2<sup>nd</sup> – We have been created in Christ Jesus for good works, and we should be going about to do them. And 3<sup>rd</sup> – God Himself has prepared these good works beforehand, that we should walk in them. Let’s see if we can understand these things better.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – Paul is declaring that salvation is not our work but God’s work, and we need to see it that way.**

As we begin this study, we need to see first of all that we who are Christians are God’s workmanship in the sense of our physical creation. We must begin at the beginning, for our spiritual salvation, our spiritual re-creation, must not be separated from our physical creation. They are linked together because God has a purpose in saving any person, that goes back before they were born, and even to the way that they were physically made. Each and every person is God’s workmanship in their physical creation; when we were woven together in our mother’s womb.

Turn with me over to Psalm 139, verses 13-16. “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb” “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.” “My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.” “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.” We find here what a magnificent work is the creation of a man or woman. We see here some very great truths.

It is apparent that neither you nor I have evolved out of the primordial slime. But you, as an individual person, and all of your inward parts of your body, were formed out of, and in connection with, the physical substance of your mother. There in the womb, God covered you with His hand, while this good work was going on. During the 9 months gestation time, until your arrival into this world came to pass, this great work was going on. Oh, what awful wickedness it is, when people want to interfere with God’s working, and take the life of their child in the womb. It is a great wickedness. A woman playing God, and thinking that because the baby is in her womb, that she has the right to say whether it lives or dies.

No, this baby is only hers, by the express permission, purpose, and creation of God. Because – Children are the gift of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is a reward. (Psalm 127: 3) Every child is God’s handiwork, and as such, the pre-born child ought to be treasured and its life protected, no matter who the earthly father is. The heavenly Father is the One who ordained that that child be there in the womb. He obviously is not the author of any sin which any man commits. And He abominates rape and incest, and sex outside of marriage.

But the giving of a child under such circumstances is intended to show forth God’s handiwork, even so. How many children born under such circumstances have turned out to be those who later grew up to glorify God, it should be evident. And so the value of God’s handiwork in the creating of the child, and the giving of the child, is established. And so, we need to see, that even though there may be consequences that are undesirable to the mother, as to who the father might be, it never warrants the act of murder to attempt to deal with them.

Rather, a submission to the will of God, and a love for the child, who would otherwise be unloved. God watches the reactions and actions of mothers very closely in this regard. And He will reward those mothers who have faith in Him, and punish those who commit the act of murder in abortion if they will not repent of it. No, the child being formed in the mother’s womb, is a separate entity from the mother

in His sight. The mother bears the child, and the child is formed out of her flesh, but she did not create the child there in the womb. That child is a distinct person from their mother, having a life of their own, during the whole of their time in the womb. And to see it in any other way, is to violate the reality of the truth, that God is author of their individual life.

Their life is not the mother's life, although it is vitally connected with hers for all that time in the womb. Every individual person is God's unique handiwork. Your frame was not hidden from God when He made you in secret; when He skillfully wrought you in the lowest parts of the earth; meaning the womb. God's hands were, as it were, were all over you, being formed and created in the womb. God has a purpose from the very beginning, from even before He begins the work in the womb. His work in the womb is directly connected to the purpose that He has for you, in creating you.

Look over at Jeremiah chapter 1, verses 4 and 5. "Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.'" So, you can see, can't you, this important truth that even before Jeremiah was born, he was set aside to God's purpose of what He wanted Jeremiah to become. He would be a prophet to the nations! And in that regard, God formed him in his mother's womb, thinking of how He would use Jeremiah later on, when he grew up. For He knew that he would become His man to minister and preach to the nations. And so it was. He was God's workmanship, even from the womb.

We also need to see, now, that God is the author of spiritual salvation. His creation of the body is His workmanship. His creation of the soul and joining it together with the body is His workmanship. And the salvation of both soul and body is also His workmanship. He is the Heavenly Workman who brings about the salvation of the soul. The soul of a person, according to God, is even of more value than the body. What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul? And what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

The salvation of any person takes place only by God's workmanship, in His time and His way in relation to the gospel. We see this portrayed for us very graphically, in the words of the apostle Paul if you will turn with me, over to Galatians chapter 1, verses 11-17. "But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man." "For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ." "For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it." "And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers."

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus." I want you to take notice here of the great contrast between what Paul did and what God did. What did Paul contribute to his salvation? Nothing! He did not receive the gospel by being taught it, even. It came to him through revelation of Jesus Christ.

He was advanced in the religion of Judaism beyond many of his contemporaries, but that availed him nothing in relation to his salvation. But look at what God did for Paul. Verse 15 – "When it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb, he says, God called me through his grace, and revealed His Son in me. What is that? It was God's workmanship of regeneration; of sending His Spirit into Paul's heart to make a great change in him, so that he would see Christ as being the only One who could save him from his sins and change his heart.

By nature he would have continually resisted the idea that he was a very great sinner; that somehow he needed to be re-created in the image of Christ; to have Christ revealed to him in all His glory. But this is exactly what happened on the road to Damascus. Paul saw the risen Christ, and had a vision of tremendous glory in relation to Christ's Lordship. And from that time forward, he would begin to trust in Him and follow him, and to do God's will in relation to Him, the One who loved him and gave Himself for Paul. And such is always the case with everyone who comes to Christ. Even though the majority of sinners who are saved do not have nearly the dramatic conversion that the apostle Paul had. Yet each

and every believer is God's workmanship in their creation in the womb, and in their re-creation by the New Birth.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – We have been created in Christ Jesus for good works, and we should be going about to do them.**

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." These good works are works which are done according the definition of good works in the word of God, and according to the spiritual light that we have been given to understand God's word according to the Spirit's working in our heart. Because of the grace and Spirit given to us by Christ, after our believing in the gospel, we are given many opportunities to do good to other people around us.

Turn over with me to Matthew 5: 13-16. "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?" "It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." "You are the light of the world." "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and gives light to all who are in the house." "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

So I hope that you see that the light that the Christian shines is referring to the light of truth which God first shines to you. The light that is in you by the Spirit of God is supposed to so shine before men that they will see your good works and glorify the Father in heaven. This is not a boastful shining, but a humble, sincere shining that will glorify your Father in heaven. That is, that people when they behold this light coming from you, will give credit to the Father for having bestowed this grace upon you, to help them to understand His help by grace.

Here we see that the Christian's experience of the shining of the Holy Spirit's illuminating rays in their heart and mind, day by day, should lead them to shine forth this light to others. The best way that can do this is to do good works. In this way, you will glorify God. People who behold these good works will praise God for what they have seen you doing. And hopefully they themselves will learn from you and believe in the gospel, themselves, and be saved. Good works being done by you, dear Christian, should lead other people around you, who do not know God, to come to have a better understanding of what God Himself is like.

God is good and kind, even to evil and ungrateful men. God in His great love and mercy through the preaching of the gospel to you, brought salvation to you. You ought to be able, then, to do good works which will lead the unbelieving people around you, to consider the love and mercy of God towards them as well. God, in the forgiveness of any person's sins forgives them a great debt. And you, knowing this, ought therefore, to be salt and light to others around you.

You ought to be able, not only to forgive those who have sinned against you, but to proclaim by your works, that you have the life of Christ in your soul. This is just the beginning of good works. Good works are something which each and every believer ought to be careful to maintain, or keep up. You see this in Titus chapter 2, verses 11-14 – "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

So what are good works as they are described for us here? Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, living soberly, righteously, and godly, and looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. We live in light of Christ's Second Coming. We live in light of our receiving our eternal inheritance. It does not mean that Christ could come at any time, but rather it means that we believe that Christ will come again in the Father's time. Of that time, no one knows the hour nor the day.

But, He will come at the time in which the Father will send Him; a very particular time of His appointing. And indeed, it is our blessed hope, that someday Christ will return, and He will reward every man according to their works. We live our lives preparing for that blessed time. And we look forward to it, even terms of our own death, when He will come and take us to Himself. It is indeed our

blessed hope, that someday Christ will return, and He will reward every man according to their works. If you have done good works, you shall receive a reward. If Christ has redeemed you, He will bring you back out of every lawless deed, and He will be purifying you for Himself, to be a person who is zealous for good works. Titus chapter 3, verse 8 says – “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.” “These things are good and profitable to men.”

How do we maintain good works? We keep looking for the opportunity to obey God and keep His commandments. We will seek to do good to all men. Titus 3: 1 – “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable gentle, showing all humility to all men.” When you have a good attitude toward authority, when you are ready to do a good work, you are peaceable and gentle towards people around you. You want what is best for them. And you will go about to do these good works for them out of a Christian love that you have for them. And they will understand this.

**3<sup>rd</sup> - God Himself has prepared these good works beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” When you go about to do your good works, you should understand that God takes into consideration all of your inherent bodily strength that you presently have. And He takes into consideration all of the spiritual strength that He will give to you, when He prepared the works beforehand, that He would have you to do.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 10 and 11 – “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” “Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.” God had prepared Paul’s work of being a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. He led him into it by the working and leading of His Spirit. And Paul responded to the grace given to him, and the work set before him. He did this by living up to his calling, and doing his good works with zeal and faithfulness. This is what God is looking for from all of us.

In the mind and heart of the Christian, this is called “sowing to the Spirit” in Galatians 6: 6-10 – “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.” “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Now this “sowing to the Spirit” is not your being saved by your good works, but it is the proof of your already having been saved. And as you continue to do these good works, it will fully justify God’s having shown mercy to you. In having saved you apart from the works of the law. I will close this message by looking at some verses which I think really open up and explain what it means that we are God’s workmanship. Hebrews 13: 20 and 21 – “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete (or perfect in the sense of completion) in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.” “Amen.”

It is good to pray for ourselves and for one another this prayer: that Christ through the blood of His covenant, the blood by which He purchased all the blessings of salvation for us, that He would equip us. Let us pray that He would make us complete in our obedience, and complete in our works, beginning them well, and ending them well. May He so work in us the ability to do them for His glory, and for the good of the people that we are trying to minister to, that He might be pleased with us. May we do His will with a cheerful and loving heart, so that He might be pleased with our works, and that He might be glorified in all the process of our doing of them.

