

September 23, 2014

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB), ***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”***

In what passes for gospel preaching in much of the evangelical community today, Jesus is presented as a way for one to improve their life and to achieve their me centered goals. If you are lonely Jesus will be your friend. If you are poor, Jesus will make you rich. If you are sick, Jesus will provide healing for you... if you will only but believe. There is very rarely a call to repentance, and hardly a mention of the need for a new life in Christ. If one studies and understands God’s word then one very quickly is disabused of these myths and understands that we are indeed called to a ***“new life in Christ.”***

The truly and genuinely redeemed believer is going to live a life that is ***“new”*** and is far different from the life they previously lived. We are not saved to just occupy a pew when we deem it necessary to attend church (when we have nothing else going on). We are not saved to remain exactly the same as we were before the only difference being our church membership certificate. In Ephesians 2:10 the Apostle Paul reminds us that we are saved and we are saved to serve.

Paul makes several points about the nature of salvation and the resultant service. First of all at the beginning of verse 10 he points out that ***“we are His workmanship.”*** Our salvation is not dependent upon us and is in no way *our* work. Verses 8-9 which proceeds verse 10 remind us of this: ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”***

The second point that Paul makes about our salvation is that we are saved to glorify God. How do we do this? By serving Him which means doing ***“good works.”*** Paul writes that we are ***“created in Christ Jesus for good works.”*** Good works cannot produce salvation but they are indeed subsequent and the result of salvation. Good works are the evidence of a changed life and the fruit of this new life we have in Christ. John 15:8 says, ***“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”*** Titus 2:14 reminds us that Christ gave ***“Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”***

The final point that is made in this verse is that these ***“good works”*** are all part of God’s sovereign purpose. Paul writes that these ***“good works... God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”*** God is sovereign over all things which includes our salvation and He is sovereign over the good works that we do as a result of that salvation. Like our salvation, the believer’s sanctification and good works were ordained before time even began.

In Ephesians 4:1 Paul wrote, ***“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.”*** We are to walk in a way that honors and glorifies God which means that we are to be occupied with things, with deeds or works that honor Him. Far too many of us are content to sit on

the sideline and let others do the serving and the working. But as Christ followers who are committed to living lives that honor Him, we are to be on the field of battle serving Him in whatever way we can.

Here at Calvary Baptist Church we have many opportunities to honor and glorify Him through service. On October 1 we are beginning our Awana Clubs and we still need plenty of men and women to serve. We have positions in Sunday school that are in need of servants as well. We also have several unfilled offices that are in need of humble servants. Do not be content just showing up for an hour and half on Sunday morning, commit yourself to serving the Lord and His kingdom. One thing I can promise you is that it will not be easy and the second thing I can promise is that you will be blessed if you serve with a humble heart.