

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE BRING OUR LOOK AT EPH. 2:1-10 TO A CLOSE BY LOOKING AT VERSE 10.

▶▶ In this section, ~ as we have noted on numerous occasions, ~ basically, ~ Paul explains that God has brought believers from spiritual death to spiritual life by His grace alone.

NOW LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION FOR ONE LAST TIME ~ TO A VERY BRIEF OVERVIEW of this paragraph.

▶▶ And we do this, ~ as you know, ~ in order to keep the overall context in view ~ and to remind ourselves how it all fits together.

▶▶ Paul began, ~ in [verse 1](#), ~ by stating what our condition was prior to salvation, ~ and also the reason for this condition.

▶▶ In [verses 2-3](#), ~ Paul described our dead condition.

▶▶ Then in [verses 4-6](#), ~ Paul explained the gracious, ~ merciful, ~ and loving act of God that brought us from spiritual death to new life.

▶▶ After that, ~ in [verse 7](#), ~ Paul pointed out \bar{a} purpose of God's gracious act of bringing us from spiritual death to spiritual life.

▶▶ And finally, ~ in [verses 8-10](#), ~ which we'll finish today, ~ Paul explains that our salvation, ~ this new life that God has given us, ~ is totally by grace alone.

LAST TIME WE LOOKED AT VERSES 8-9.

▶▶ As noted, ~ it is by God's grace, ~ i.e. His free and undeserved favor, ~ that Christians have been saved.

▶▶ And the channel by which one receives God's grace and is saved ~ is biblical faith in Jesus.

▶▶ Paul makes it quite clear in these verses that neither we nor our good works are the source of our salvation.

▶▶ It is totally a gift from God. ~~ And therefore, ~ none of us has bragging rights when it comes to our salvation.

▶▶ And that brings us to [verse 10](#), ~ which, ~ as we noted, ~ we'll look at today.

IN VERSE 10, ~ PAUL RETURNS TO TALKING ABOUT THE SOURCE OF OUR salvation.

FOR CONTEXT, ~ LET'S TAKE IT FROM VERSE 8.

▶▶ Paul says, ~ ^{8a} For by grace you have been saved ~ ^{8b} through faith. ~ ^{8c} And this is not your own doing; ~ ^{8d} it is the gift of God, ~ ^{9a} not a result of works, ~ ^{9b} so that no one may boast. ~ ~ ¶¶

▷▷ [and our verse for today, ~ [verse 10](#)] ~ ^{10a} For we are his workmanship, ~ ^{10b} created in Christ Jesus ^{10c} for good works, ~ ^{10d} which God prepared beforehand, ~ that we should walk in them."

FIRST, ~ IN VERSE 10a, ~ PAUL SAYS, ~ "FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP OR creation."

▶▶ The conjunction "for," ~ tells us why this salvation is not of human origin or by human works, ~ and why we can't boast. ~ The reason is that we are God's creation, ~ Paul says.

▶▶ "his" is emphasized. ~ "For we are his workmanship." ~ Paul is stressing that our salvation is God's achievement and no other's.

▷▷ We are, ~ Paul says, ~ **God's** creation, ~ His and His alone.

↳↳ Just as the creation of heaven and earth was accomplished by God ~ apart from human intervention, ~ ¶¶

→→ so too was our being made spiritually alive accomplished by God ~ apart from human intervention.

NEXT, ~ IN VERSE 10b, ~ PAUL TELLS US THAT WE WERE "CREATED IN CHRIST Jesus."

▶▶ ^{10a} For we are his workmanship, ~ ^{10b} created in Christ Jesus ^{10c} for good works, ~ ^{10d} which God prepared beforehand, ~ that we should walk in them."

▶▶ "created" means to make or create something which has not existed before. ~ And in the NT, ~ the word is used exclusively of God's activity in creation.

▶▶ These two truths, ~ that our salvation is God's achievement alone ~ and that "created" in the NT is used only of God's activity in creation, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ highlight and reinforce the truth that we had absolutely nothing to do with bringing about our salvation. ¶¶ 2/8

▷▷ As discussed, ~ we could not be the source of our salvation. ~ Spiritually dead
~ Not seeking God ~ Unsaved could not understand the things that come from
the Spirit of God.

↪↪ As noted, ~ like Adam and Eve, ~ in our unsaved state, ~ we had all heard "the
sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day," ~ and had hidden
ourselves "from the presence of the Lord God."

→→ Add to all of this ~ these two truths we learn in [verse 10](#), ~ and it becomes
crystal clear.

↪↪ There's no absolutely no way we could have had any part in bringing about our
salvation.

▶▶ "For we are **God's** creation, ~ new creations," ~ Paul says.

▷▷ As we know, ~ in [2 Cor. 5:17](#), ~ Paul reinforces this truth. ~ He writes, ~ "Therefore,
~ if anyone is in Christ, ~ he is a new creation. ~ 77

↪↪ The old has passed away; ~ behold, ~ the new has come."

→→ I.e., ~ our old life is gone. ~ It's over. ~ We are not the same anymore. ~ A
new life has begun!

▷▷ This reminds us of ~ and highlights ~ what we've been talking about. ~ And i.e., ~ our
old nature is so bad, ~ so totally infected and corrupted by sin, ~ God does not repair or
remodel it.

↪↪ Remember what [Jer. 17:9](#) says. ~ NIV ~ "The heart is deceitful above all things
~ and beyond cure ~ [it's incurable]. ~ Who can understand it?"

↪↪ And remember what Paul said in [Rom. 7:18a](#). ~ NIV ~ "For I know that good itself
does not dwell in me, ~ that is, ~ in my sinful nature."

↪↪ So, ~ rather than repairing or remodeling our old nature, ~ when God makes and
raises us alive spiritually, ~ he gives us a brand new nature; ~ 77

→→ one which by instinct ~ as we said, ~ wants to please, ~ to live for, ~ and to
serve ~ God.

↪↪ Once again, ~ as God says in [Ezek. 36:26](#), ~ "And I will give you a new heart,
~ and a new spirit I will put within you. ~ And I will remove the heart of stone
from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." 77 3/8

▷▷ And, ~ as **new** creations, ~ people with **new** natures ~ we are to live a **new** way of life, ~ as we discussed in 2:6.

↳↳ As said, ~ when Jesus left the tomb, ~ He left the grave clothes in it. ~~ Likewise, ~ when God makes and raises us alive spiritually, ~ **we too are leave the grave clothes behind.**

→→ I.e., ~ the old life, ~ when we were dominated by our sin nature and its sinful desires ~ and followed this world and Satan, ~ is to be left behind.

↳↳ As Peter says in 1 Pet. 4:3a, ~ "For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do."

↳↳ We're to now be governed by the new nature that God has given us, ~ our new nature that instinctively wants to please, ~ **to live for, ~ and to serve ~ God.**

▶▶ Continuing in **verse 10b**, ~ Paul says, ~ "For we are **his** ~ [i.e., ~ **God's**] ~ creation, ~ created ~ [or, **new creations**] in Christ Jesus."

▷▷ "in Christ Jesus" could be looked at as "by means of." ~~ I.e., ~ "we are **God's** creation, ~ new creations ~ by means of or through Christ Jesus."

↳↳ Most likely Paul is referring to our union with Jesus through salvation.

→→ I.e., ~ we have become new creations ~ through our union with Christ Jesus in salvation.

▷▷ **Jn. 1:3**, ~ **Col. 1:16**, ~ and **Heb. 1:3** ~ tell us that God the Father created the universe through God the Son.

↳↳ Likewise, ~ it is through Jesus that God makes believers new creations.

▶▶ And once again, ~ we see the centrality of Jesus. ~~ ^{10a} For we are **his** creation, ~ ^{10b} created in Christ Jesus."

▷▷ Over and over **

▷▷ ** And now Paul comes back to the centrality of Christ in **2:10b**.

▷▷ Furthermore, ~ the phrase "in Christ Jesus" here is emphasized.

↳↳ Paul says, ~ "For we are **God's** creation, ~ created in Christ Jesus." ↴ 4/8

▷▷ The repetition and emphasis of the centrality of Jesus in our salvation and its accompanying blessings is significant.

↳↳ Paul just doesn't want us to breeze over this. ~ He wants us to really think about this. ~ He wants us to truly grasp this.

→→ And when we really think about it and begin to truly grasp it, ~ we will gain a greater appreciation and thankfulness for our Savior and what He has done for us.

↳↳ What's more, ~ it will result in a great desire and willingness to serve and obey Him out of appreciation and love ~ and not out of some religious obligation.

↳↳ Furthermore, ~ when we really think about and begin to truly grasp the centrality of Jesus . . . ~ most likely to tell others all Jesus has done.

IN VERSE 10c, ~ PAUL EXPLAINS THAT CHRISTIANS WERE CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE of doing good works.

▶▶ "10a For we are his workmanship, ~ 10b created in Christ Jesus 10c for ~ [i.e., ~ to do] ~ good works, ~ 10d which God prepared beforehand, ~ that we should walk in them."

▶▶ Our becoming a new creation is not achieved by doing good works, ~ but it should result in doing good works.

▶▶ And consider this, ~ good works do not produce salvation. ~ But they are a proof of salvation. ~ In 2:14-26, ~ of his epistle, ~ James clearly makes this point. ~ James

▷▷ Now, ~ we'll just highlight a number of the verses Important

▷▷ In verse 14, ~ James asks, ~ "What good is it, ~ my brothers, ~ if someone says he has faith but does not have works ~ [i.e., What good is it, ~ my brothers, ~ if someone says he has faith but doesn't show it by his actions]? ~ Can that faith save him?"

↳↳ The Greek text slants the question to expect a "no" answer. ~ "Can that kind of faith save him? ~ Of course not," ~ James implies.

→→ Saving faith will always result in good works.

▷▷ In verse 17, ~ he says, ~ "So also faith by itself, ~ if it does not have works, ~ is dead."

↳↳ James' point is that faith by itself isn't enough. ~ Unless it produces good deeds, ~ it is dead and useless. ↴ ↴ 5/8

▷▷ In **verses 21-22**, ~ James uses Abraham as an example that good works prove our faith.

↳↳ He writes, ~ "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ~ ~ ↴↴

→→ You see that faith was active along with his works, ~ and faith was completed ~ [was brought to maturity] ~ by his works."

↳↳ Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son proved his faith was real and also brought his faith to maturity.

▷▷ In **verse 24**, ~ James says, ~ "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."

↳↳ Simply put, ~ his point here is that ~ it is by people's actions that they prove the reality of their professions of faith.

▷▷ In **verse 25**, ~ James uses Rahab as a second illustration.

↳↳ "And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?"

→→ Rahab's willingness to help the Israelite spies proved her faith in God was genuine.

▷▷ And then in **verse 26**, ~ James declares, ~ "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, ~ so also faith apart from works ~ [i.e., ~ faith that doesn't produce good works] ~ is dead."

▶▶ We are "created in Christ Jesus to do good works," ~ Paul says in **verse 10c**.

▷▷ James and Paul quite clear: ~ ~ genuine saving faith in Christ ~ results in ~ and is proven by ~ good works.

THEN, ~ IN VERSE 10d, ~ PAUL GIVES US FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THESE works that we were created to do.

▶▶ "10a For we are his workmanship, ~ 10b created in Christ Jesus 10c for ~ [i.e., ~ to do] ~ good works, ~ 10d which God prepared beforehand, ~ that we should walk in them."

▶▶ They are not just any kind of good works, ~ they are works that God has prepared for us to do. ↴↴ 6/8

▷▷ The full thought here would be, ~ and we'll include a para. of all of [verse 10](#): ~ ~ ¶¶

↳↳ "For we are God's creation, ~ new creations, ~ created through our union with Christ Jesus ~ ¶¶

→→ for the purpose of accomplishing the good works which God Himself arranged long ago ~ [i.e., ~ before making us new creations in Jesus]."

▶▶ God has planned good works for us to do.

▷▷ Now, ~ I don't think that Paul is talking about good works in general that God has for us.

↳↳ Although we cannot rule that out, ~ I think it's more specific than that.

↳↳ I would suggest, ~ since he talks about spiritual gifts in chapter 4, ~ and context always determines meaning, ~ that Paul may be especially alluding here to the area of our spiritual gifting ~ ¶¶

→→ and the specific ministry or ministries our gifting is for.

↳↳ I.e., ~ God has prepared specific works of ministry for us ~ and has gifted us to carry them out. ~ ~ E.g., ~ myself ~ ~ Wayne

▷▷ Let's apply this to all of us now.

↳↳ According to [1 Pet. 4:10](#), ~ each believer has been given at least one spiritual gift.

↳↳ In [Rom. 12:6a](#), ~ Paul, ~ implying that every Christian has at least one gift, ~ states, ~ "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, ~ let us use them."

↳↳ And Paul tells us here in [Eph. 2:10](#) ~ that God has works of ministry for us to accomplish.

↳↳ Therefore, ~ our responsibility is threefold.

→→ 1st, ~ to determine what our spiritual gifts are

→→ 2nd, ~ to determine the ministry work that God has planned for us

→→ And 3rd, ~ to accomplish that ministry. ¶¶ 7/8

CONCLUSION.

AND THAT BRINGS US TO THE END OF 2:1-10.

▶▶ Before God saved us, ~ we were spiritually dead because of our trespasses and sins, ~ actively sinning characterized our lives, ~ we went along with and practiced the standards of this world, ~ we followed and aligned ourselves with Satan, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ like all unbelievers, ~ we were enslaved to our sinful nature and its sinful desires ~ and carried those sinful desires out, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ And, ~ tragically, ~ we were subject to, ~ deserving of, ~ and destined for ~ a horrifying and terrible eternity from the moment we came into existence.

▶▶ "But God, ~ being rich in mercy, ~ because of the great love with which he loved us, ~ even when we were dead in our trespasses," ~ ¶¶

▷▷ did three things for us, ~ He "made us alive together with Christ . . . ~ raised us up with him ~ and seated us with him in the heavenly places."

▶▶ And He did this in order to display for ever and ever, ~ just how extraordinarily rich in grace he is.

▶▶ And it is by this grace, ~ God's gift of free and undeserved favor, ~ and this grace alone, ~ that those who "confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead" are saved.

▶▶ Neither we nor our good works are the source of our salvation. ~ It is gift from God.

▶▶ We are God's creation, ~ new creations, ~ created through our union with Christ Jesus ~ for the purpose of accomplishing the good works which God Himself arranged for us long ago.

▶▶ To God be the glory forever and ever.

LET'S PRAY 8/8