

We are His Workmanship

Ephesians 2:8-22

7/07/02

Intro

- Pray for missions teams.

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In chapter 2 Paul says that we were dead, but that God made us alive in Christ. He emphasized that God did this because He was rich in mercy and that by grace we have been saved.

Paul is making that point in these verses by emphasizing that it's all about God. There is no part of our life in Christ that we can take credit for. It's all about Him. Paul says in verse 10, that we are His workmanship.

But when we discover that it's all about Him, we then gain some very important insights into how we should live.

In these verses, Paul gives us greater insight into the surpassing riches of His grace.

I. Salvation itself is a gift.

Vs 8-9 A. For by grace we have been saved, through faith.

- What is grace? Treating someone better than they deserve. Very true of salvation.
- Through faith means that we must accept the free offer of salvation through faith.
- Much debate surrounds the word "it" in verse 8. Does it refer to grace or faith? Neither, because there is not agreement of gender, it refers to salvation itself.

B. Not as a RESULT of works (so that no man should boast).

- Again, this is one of Paul great themes; that God is the initiator and we are the responders. Many people are if the thought that they can somehow get God to respond to them.
- To make the point clear, Paul says it again a different way, "We are His workmanship."

II. We are His workmanship.

Vs 10

A. Created in Christ Jesus.

- II Cor 5:17 says that in Christ, we are a new creation, the old things passed away.
- The meaning is that this is God's doing.

B. Created for good works.

- Which He prepared beforehand – God has worked before us and prepared good works for us...
- To walk in, not to work in.

C. How are we ourselves His workmanship?

- He is at work changing our nature and character.
- This is done by DRAWING NEAR to Him.

Illus – Many people get to a crisis point in their lives and begin to make promises about how they are going to change their lives. But rather than make promises, we

should draw near to God. There is where lasting changes happen.

D. As His workmanship...

- People should at work in us; His wisdom, power, love, life, character, and joy.

E. Remember our former days.

Vs 11-13

- We were far from God in every way.
- We were dead.

III. Peace is also God's workmanship.

He is called the Prince of Peace, and peace is one of the most important things we can ever have.

Def. of Peace – Making the two into one (not just agreeing not to fight).

Illus – Will there ever be peace in the Middle East? Can there be peace between people? He is our peace.

It's hard to be at peace with others when we have no peace in our hearts. He is our peace.

There are three parts to having peace.

A. He has broken down the dividing wall.

Illus – I will never forget the speech Reagan gave when he said, "Mr. Gorbachov, take down this wall!"

- There was a wall between Jew and Gentile.

Illus – The woman caught in adultery and the people accusing were equally condemned. They all needed the grace of God.

- Law = demand.

B. That He might create in Himself one new man.

- When we stop demanding, we stop judging. When we stop being self-righteous...
- When we acknowledge that each of us needs to be made new, that we all need forgiveness, then there can be peace.

Illus- In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek... Jew/Gentile, black/white, rich/poor, male/female. He makes us new, not like someone else.

C. That He might reconcile us both to God.

- Division comes when we say, "I'm better than you," or even, "my sin isn't as ugly as yours."
- Peace comes when we say, "God forgives me, and I forgive you."
- Peace with God comes first.

Illus – in the 60's "free love" became the rage, but consider the spiritual application...

Conclusion

We are His workmanship even in that we are together being fitted together as the temple of the Holy Spirit.