

Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are God’s handiwork...” The word handiwork is literally, poema, where we get our English word poem from. This gives us a sense that our good works will be a unique reflection of God towards others.

What are some of the specific good works God has created you for? What does that look like in your life? How is it a unique reflection of God?

CHALLENGE

In light of the grace we have been shown, who is someone you can extend grace to this week?



Sermon Series: “Your Serve”
Week #10: “A Grace That Leads to God”
Scripture: Mark Ephesians 2:4-10
Date: October 27, 2019

LIFE GROUPS MISSION:
*To connect people to God and each other
in authentic relationships*

READ IT!

Ephesians 2:4-10

Share your observations about this passage.

READ IT!

Philippians 2:12-13 and Colossians 1:28-29

These good works that Ephesians 2:10 speaks of are good works, “which God prepared in advance for us to do.” The good works that we demonstrate can either be life-giving or life-draining. When we live in the awareness of the grace we’ve been given and allow our good works to flow from that place, we will be energized. If, on the other hand, we make the good works that verse 10 speaks of the cause of the grace or the earning of our acceptance, then our “good works” will suck the life out of us.

Do you find that your good works typically flow out of a recognition of the grace you’ve been given? Or do they flow from a place of trying to obtain grace? Or a bit of both? How does one go about discerning whether their good works are springing from a result of grace rather than from a place of earning grace?

God hasn’t put you here on earth to face life alone. Life groups exist to ensure you have a community to encourage and uplift you. We value the opportunity to care for you. If you’re not in a life group sign up today or online <http://www.fremontpres.org/small-groups-1>

God is clearly the protagonist in the drama of salvation. God's love for us originates in the loveliness of the Lover, not the loveliness of the loved. God's love surely provides us with a happiness and a flourishing that is impossible for us to have outside of God. But the flourishing life is not a life lived in the spotlight—it is a life that points others back toward God.

How do you combat the deeply human focus on self? Is it possible to forget oneself intentionally? What kind of practices or habits has helped you refocus your heart on God and others?

Paul uses the standard metaphor of “walking” in good works to describe the life we are now to live as a response to God's redemptive act. To “walk” in the good works that God has prepared for us means that we are empowered to do so now. Paul is describing what should be the regular activity of our daily lives, not merely some act in the future that we must prepare for.

Do you feel empowered to do good works now? Or do you feel like you are still in training wheels? When you think about “good works,” what specific acts come to mind? The little human moments of the mundane? Or only the big, life-altering acts?

Not only does God save us by his love for good works, but he also makes a preparation beforehand for these works. Though this is not what Paul intended, some read this to mean that there is a specific task or function you were created for, and you must find it.

Do you feel like there is a “purpose” to your life that you must find? Do you feel that until you find out what you were “meant to do” your life is rather purposeless? In what sense can the promise of God's preparation for you be a comfort, rather than a cause of anxiety?

READ IT!

Ephesians 2:1-3

The little word “But” at the beginning of our passage suggests a contrast and compels a person to investigate what that contrast might be. Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones, in his sermon series on Ephesians, spoke of this opening phrase in v.4, “But God,” and said “These two words, in and of themselves, in a sense contain the whole of the gospel.”

What do those verses have to say about mankind in general and individuals in particular? As you think about v.1-3 and read through the rest of our passage, v.4-10, how would you explain what he meant by that statement?

At the moment of salvation, God made us united together with Christ. In v.4-7, we see that we who once were dead, God “made us alive together with Christ,” “raised us up with him,” and “seated us with him in the heavenly places.” Our lives, right now, are in heaven with Christ – that is the true reality for every Christian, and our assured hope is that we will experience that fully when Christ returns. But we still live in this world and a remnant of our old sin nature remains and our true unity with Christ can often feel very remote and “legal/positional” rather than being a warm personal relationship from which we draw our strength to live in this world.

Can you think of some things that tend to move your heart away from your close union with Christ and pull you towards the “passions of our flesh” and the “desires of the body and the mind” (v.3)? What helps you to keep your relationship with Christ at the center of your life?