

**THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS**  
**“THE LIFE OF GRACE”**  
**(EPHESIANS 2:10)**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2007**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

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

**INTRODUCTION**

Most Christians primarily think of grace in relationship to their salvation. But grace extends so much further beyond just the gift of salvation. This gift of grace from the Father includes the fact we are His workmanship. The Greek word for workmanship denotes a work of art or masterpiece. The work that God begins in us at the time of our salvation continues for the remainder of our lives on this earth. Each person who places their faith in Jesus Christ goes through a process called sanctification, which is God’s work in us to conform and transform us into the image of His son, Jesus. Grace also includes a call to service. While we are not saved “by works,” we are saved “for works.” God desires good works to be a part of our lives and He equips us with special gifts and talents to enable us to serve Him. God wants to manifest Himself to others through our lives so that He will be honored and glorified. Through this study, we will explore what it means to be His workmanship and the good works that we have been called to do for Him.

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT**

1. Why is it significant that we are “His workmanship”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. According to Romans 8:29 and Philippians 1:6, what has God predestined and promised to every person who places their faith in Jesus? What is the significance of these truths in the life of a believer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Read Romans 5:3-5; Ephesians 3:20 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13. According to these verses, what are the tools that God uses to mature us as believers? What should be the results of this maturing process in our lives?

4. Why is it important to know we were “created in Christ for good works”?
  
5. According to Matthew 5:16; Colossians 1:10 and 1 Peter 2:12, what should be the purpose of our good works?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Read Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:5, 10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and James 1:5-8. What do these passages reveal to you concerning the good works God has prepared in advance for you?

### **OUR WALK WITH GOD**

1. How much does knowing you are “His workmanship” affect the way you live? What changes in your attitudes, actions and thoughts must you make for your life to truly reflect the fact that you are God’s masterpiece? How might your small group encourage each other to grow in the awareness of what it means to be God’s workmanship?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Spend a few moments reflecting on your life. What has hindered you from doing the good works God has prepared for you to do? Do nonbelievers notice a difference in you because of the good works you do for the Lord? Why or why not? How might your small group encourage you to change your attitudes and ways in this area of your life?

## GOING DEEPER

1. Read James 2:14-26. What does this passage reveal to us concerning the connection to and importance of faith and works? How should this impact the way we live our lives?
  
2. What spiritual gifts do you find listed in Romans 12:3-8 and Ephesians 4:11-13? What are spiritual gifts and who are they given to? Why is it important for believers to use the gifts God has given to them in order to serve others?

## ADDITIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“We are created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. It is a part of His plan. **If you do not desire to be holy, I do not see that you have any right to think you are a Christian.** It is part of God’s design that we be prepared for good works... When God looked upon you and loved you and began to work in you to make you a Christian, He had already prepared the works which you should live and perform... **There is no such thing as faith without works. The proof of faith is works.** There is no value in a profession of Christianity unless it is accompanied by a desire to be like Christ, a desire to be rid of sin, a desire after positive holiness. According to Ephesians 2:10, this is essential. He is making us for that. God works in us to produce this result. **So the final test of whether God is working in us is that we desire to be more and more like Christ, holy and pure, separate from the world and from sin, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, that we may please the God who has thus begun to work in us.**

“God’s Way of Reconciliation,” D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones