

YOU ARE THE MASTERPIECE OF THE ETERNAL CRAFTSMAN

Part 8 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:10 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*For we are His **workmanship** having been created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

This word workmanship (*poiēma*) is only used one other time in the New Testament, for when **God formed the first creation** –

Romans 1:20 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from **His workmanship** ...*

This is something from nothing ... something never before seen.

Not a renovation of an old thing ... but completely new, that had never 'been' before.

So it is with The New Creation.

We are NOT an improvement of the Old Nature.

We are a completely New Nature – never before seen – The Nature of Christ in us.

GOD CREATES A LIVING POEM

Workmanship = (*poiēma*)

This is where we get our word 'Poem' from.

A poem expresses the deeper view of something ...

It shows the hidden value of something – something more meaningful than what meets the eye at a glance ... revealing THE BEAUTY ...

For example –

The Poet Francis Thomson (1897) describes **THE EXQUISIT WORK OF THE ETERNAL CRAFTSMAN** in his poem, 'To A Snowflake', writing about the intricacies of the snowflake – **the craftsman's** attention to minute detail – His skill creating such perfection and beauty ...

SLIDE 'TO A SNOWFLAKE' - Francis Thomson

*'What heart could have **thought you** – past our devisal? (O filigree petal!)*

***Fashioned** so purely, fragilely, surely ...*

From what Paradisal, imagineless metal, too costly for cost?

*Who **hammered you, wrought you**, from argentine vapour?*

*(The Snowflake speaks) **SLIDE***

***'God was my shaper.** Passing surmial,*

He hammered, He wrought me ...

From curled silver vapour

Thou could'st not have thought me!

So purely, so palely, tinily, surely, mightily, frailly,

Insculped and embossed ...

With His hammer of wind, And His graver of frost?'

SO, IN OUR TEXT, GOD IS PICTURED AS THE ULTIMATE ARTIST ...

SLIDE Forming and fashioning us in His great eternal workshop ...

Creating you and me as a living poem.

Creating you and me **perfect to the last minute detail** –

Intricate, accurate, priceless and beautiful.

BUT DID YOU KNOW, THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE

YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN FULLY CRAFTED AND

YOU ARE ALREADY A FINISHED WORK OF ART

Ephesians 2:10 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*For we are His workmanship, **having been created** in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

NB: The Aorist tense ... 'Having Been Created' - Past tense, something done and completed!

*Created (**ktisthentes**) Verb - Aorist Participle Passive - Nominative Masculine Plural*

To create, form, shape, make ... always spoken of God.

Just like we read in Ephesians 1:4-5, God chose us and predestined us in Christ before the foundation of the world,

Here now, we also read that at that time - 'Before Time', God not only chose us and predestined us, but at that time – 'Before Time' – **HE ALSO FORMED US, CRAFTED US & FINISHED US.**

So 'spiritually', God had Chosen us in Christ ... Predestined us In Christ and also **Formed us in Christ ... before all time.**

HOLY, BLAMELESS & BEAUTIFUL ...

This means ...

Before you even came into this world ...

Before you had the chance to be a sinner ...

*God Had already created YOU as this **wonderful, perfect ... beautiful person.***

SLIDE

WHEN YOU WERE BORN AGAIN YOU BECAME THE PERSON GOD HAD ALREADY MADE YOU BEFORE TIME BEGAN.

This new creation came to pass in time and **when you bowed your knee to Jesus ... your new life actually came into being.**

**THE 'BEREAN LITERAL BIBLE'
CONVEYS THIS VERY THOUGHT**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is [they are] a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, the new has come into being.

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

DO YOU KNOW HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE ...

HOW PERFECT YOU ARE?

David got a glimpse of this when he declared ...

'... I am fearfully & wonderfully made ...' (Psalm 139:14)

DO YOU KNOW HOW WONDERFULLY UNIQUE YOU ARE?

You are exactly what God wanted you to be.

You are His living poem – the skilled, intricate and accurate workmanship of the eternal craftsman ... perfect, priceless and beautiful.

SLIDE SO HERE'S THE PROBLEM – THE ANOMOLY

Here on this planet, in our daily lives, we do not appear to be outwardly who God has already made us spiritually – inwardly ...

1 John 3:2 ESV

*Beloved, **we are God's children now** and what we will be **has not yet [fully] appeared;** but we know that when he appears we shall be like*

him, because we shall see him as he is.

WE ARE NOT YET FULLY MANIFESTING WHO WE REALLY ARE ...

Isaiah 43:6-8 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*... Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth—⁷everyone called by My name and created for My glory, **whom I have indeed formed and made.**⁸ Bring out a people who **have eyes but are blind, and who have ears but are deaf.***

THIS IS A PEOPLE ALREADY CREATED WHO HAVE NOT FULLY COME TO MANIFEST WHO THEY TRULY ARE.

Romans 8:19 *Amplified*

For [even the whole] creation [all nature] waits eagerly for the children of God to be revealed [unveiled].

Creation awaits for us to fully manifest *the crafted masterpiece. Yet, so many Christians see the failure of their outward behaviour and feel the negative emotions of their soul and they want to be changed to be a better person.*

So they pray –

Lord help me to be a better person ...

Lord help me to be the person You want me to be ...

They fail to realise the truth that –

***THEY ALREADY ARE THAT BETTER PERSON –
THEY ALREADY ARE THAT PERSON GOD WANTS THEM TO BE.***

They pray like this but God doesn't seem to answer ...

Because God has already done the work.

They just can't see it yet!!!

3 SECRETS TO START TO BECOME WHO WE ARE

THE FIRST SECRET IS TO SEE WHO WE ALREADY ARE IN CHRIST JESUS ...

HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR TRUE SELF IN CHRIST YET?

I guarantee you don't see who you are in Christ ...

Or if you glimpse it ... you can't believe it is actually you ...

- Many of us cannot escape the feeling of being **a failure** imbedded in our minds **by society and even family**
- Many of us struggle deep inside with a concept of ourselves as being **a second-rate person**
- Many of us strive against **our own disappointment ... or a failure** with which we have been labelled.

We either strive against it and become an intense person or succumb to it and become broken

**DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST, YOU ARE NOT THAT PERSON ...
YOU NEVER WERE ... YOU ARE ALREADY HIS LIVING POEM OF
PERFECTION & BEAUTY!**

SLIDE

GOD NOT ONLY BELIEVES IN YOU ...

GOD KNOWS WHO YOU ARE ...

**GOD KNOWS YOU AS THE BEAUTIFUL WHOLE PERSON HE HAS
ALREADY MADE YOU.**

2 Timothy 2:19 NIV

God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription:

"The Lord knows those who are His" ...

DO YOU KNOW YOU AS GOD KNOWS YOU?

**Oh that we could begin to see we are already the person God
intended us to be and ... we can't be any better than he has already
made us.**

THIS IS THE HEART OF PAUL'S PRAYER IN CHAPTER ONE -

Ephesians 1:18 Aramaic Bible in Plain English

**... That the eyes of your hearts would be enlightened, that you will
know what is the hope of his calling and what is the wealth of the
glory of his inheritance in The Holy Ones.**

This is, His wealth deposited in us ...

His glory of the new creation in Christ Jesus.

WHEN WE BEGIN TO SEE IT, WE BEGIN TO BECOME IT ...

**THERE'S ANOTHER REASON WHY MANY OF US FAIL TO
SEE WHO WE TRULY ARE**

WE HAVE A CONCEPT OF GOD'S PERFECT PERSON AS
SOMEONE WHO IS INTENSE & SERIOUS & RELIGIOUS

*But the real new creation person you are in God is nothing like that.
You are free ... you are happy ... you are laughing ... enjoying life ...*

SO, WHAT DOES YOUR NEW PERSON LOOK LIKE?

You are not stuffy & religious

You are bright & attractive ... not dull & drab

You are a work of art

You bring delight to all who see you ...

DO YOU KNOW **YOU** AS GOD KNOWS **YOU**?

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in The Lord always ...

THE SECOND SECRET IS TO NOT TRY AND SANCIFY
OURSELVES BUT TO LIVE OUT OF OUR FAITH IN JESUS WHO
IS IN OUR HEART.

Galatians 2:20 NIV **SLIDE**

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ
lives in me. **The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son
of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

**THE ONLY LIFE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD IS THE PERFECT LIFE
OF CHRIST**

We live out of that life in the realm of faith ... from his life within ...

WE DON'T LIVE LEGALLY ANYMORE (ACCORDING TO THE LAW)

Being a 'Law Abiding Citizen' is not our standard ...

Christ's Righteousness alone is all God accepts – The New Life you
have ...

WE DON'T LIVE MORALLY ANYMORE (ACCORDING TO OUR
MORAL CONSCIENCE)

God does not ask you to be a 'Moral Person' because that is NOT
good enough ... Christ's Righteousness alone is all God accepts –
The New Life you have ...

WE LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD WHO IS IN US ... FROM THAT PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS, WISDOM & SANCTIFICATION THAT JESUS HAS BECOME TO US & IN US.

THE THIRD SECRET IS TO ACCEPT THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS HE CHIPS AWAY OUR HARD EXTERNAL CORE TO LET THE NEW PERSON COME FORTH ...

SCULPTURE SLIDE

“The sculpture is already complete within the marble block, before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material.”

— Michelangelo BUONARROTI

“I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.”

WE DON'T DO THE WORK OF OUR SANCTIFICATION ...
THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES

He chisels away the hard exterior to bring out the perfect wonderful and beautiful person you already are inside ...

Let him do it!

HIS CHISELS ARE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

Romans 8:28

... We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

We are the called according to His eternal purpose.

God will eventually bring out the new creation in you more and more to that perfect day ...

That is the day where we become who we are.

God The Father has finished His work creating us, however.

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS ONLY STARTED HIS WORK IN RELEASING THIS NEW PERSON IN US ...

EVERY DAY ... HE IS AT WORK IN US ...

Philippians 1:6 NLT

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.