

YOU ARE GOD'S MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY FOREVERMORE

Part 10 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:10 **SLIDE**

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

I have often heard 'Grace-Believer's' say, 'I'm not into 'Works' ... I'm into 'Grace' (or similar phrases)

And they quote the following verses with great satisfaction ...

Ephesians 2:8-9

*For by grace you have been saved ... **⁹NOT OF WORKS** ...*

Galatians 2:16 (see also Romans 3:20)

*... By the **'works of The Law'** no flesh shall be justified.*

(NB: Either before or after becoming a believer)

Years ago, I heard this statement again and again ... so, I started saying, *'We're not into 'dead-works' **but we are into 'Good-Works'**.*

These Grace Christians were of course referring to 'Dead-works'.

Dead-works are mentioned in Hebrews 6:1 & 9:14 which are ...

- Futile attempts to try and fulfil the law or your nagging conscience ... they are works that are not of Faith.
- Futile attempts to try and improve yourself and gain God's favour.
- Works that do not produce life or the fruit of The Spirit such as 'Love, Joy and Peace' but pride and religious superiority.

SO THE GRACE-BELIEVER 'KIND OF GETS IT' AND THEY REST IN **JESUS' FINISHED WORK** AND SAY, *'I'm not into 'Works' ... I'm into 'Grace'* **SLIDE**

Unfortunately however, many of these 'Grace-believers' have only seen **half the message** ... they have had half the revelation.

They understand they are not saved by 'Dead-works' or 'works of The Law' but have not yet understood –

NOW IN GRACE, GOD HAS PROVIDED A PLETHORA OF 'GOOD-WORKS' WAITING FOR THEM TO WALK IN.

GOD NOW WANTS US TO WALK IN HIS 'GOOD WORKS'.

THIS IS SOMETHING WONDERFUL & SIGNIFICANT THAT GOD HAS PLANNED ...

SO, IN EPHESIANS CHAPTER TWO, PAUL HAS TAKEN US FROM SEEING THE FUTILITY OF '*WORKS*' OR '*DEAD WORKS*' (verses 8-9), TO HERE IN OUR TEXT, REVEALING THAT THE NEXT STEP FOR ALL BELIEVERS IS TO BEGIN TO WALK IN '*GOOD-WORKS*'.

Ephesians 2:10 **SLIDE**

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

SO WHAT ARE THESE GOOD WORKS?

THERE IS SOMETHING WONDERFUL & SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THESE GOOD-WORKS THAT GOD WANTS US TO SEE ...

Many people see these Good Works as being **SPIRITUAL MINISTRY GIFTS ... preaching, pastoring, prophesying (there are many people trying to do that work) spiritual discernment, healing the sick etc**

BUT HERE GOD IS TALKING ABOUT A SPECIFIC AND WONDERFUL PURPOSE WHICH HE PLANNED ...

**MORE THAN GETTING THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM DONE ...
MORE THAN WINNING SOULS INTO THE KINGDOM AS WE ALWAYS THOUGHT –**

THESE GOOD WORKS ARE LINKED TO HIS WORKMANSHIP

- **GOOD-WORKS COME FROM GOD'S-WORK**

****SLIDE** 'WE MUST BE GOD'S WORK ... BEFORE WE CAN DO 'GOOD WORK'**

NOBODY CAN WALK IN GOD'S GOOD WORKS WITHOUT FIRST BEING CREATED AS GOD'S GOOD WORK

****SLIDE****

WHEN WE DISCOVER GOD'S WORK OF US ... WE WILL DISCOVER HIS GOOD-WORKS IN US

AND WE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH BOTH

- 'GOOD-WORKS' EXPRESS THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S-WORK which is us – His Workmanship

THESE '**GOOD WORKS**' ARE ACTUALLY DESIGNED TO DISPLAY HIS MAGNIFICENT ARTWORK THAT WE ARE.

We saw last week that God has already made you and me into a '**Living Poem**' which reveals His Grace in us. We have been crafted by **the eternal Master-Craftsman** ... an exquisite work of art ... never before seen in this fallen world.

Created perfect, pristine and priceless ... in the image of Jesus.

SO DOESN'T IT STAND TO REASON THAT **GOD WOULD WANT TO DISPLAY US – HIS MAGNIFICENT WORK OF ART – FOR THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, AND ALSO FOR THE DELIGHT OF THOSE TO WHOM HE IS PLEASED TO SHOW US?**

GOD WANTS HIS CRAFTSMANSHIP TO BE SEEN ...

UNLIKE MY DEAR FATHER ...

My father restored the most wonderful English mahogany dining table. He was so proud of it! He re-stained it again and again, polished it till it shone and put it in a place of prominence.

When guests came, we would all sit around and eat off this magnificent craftsmanship ...

But here's the anomaly ... Nobody ever saw it. SLIDE

Dad kept it covered because he didn't want it to be damaged.

He kept a thick piece of rubber on top of it and a table cloth over that ... And no one ever got to see how beautiful it really was.

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE COVERED UP UNDER SOME THICK RUBBER ...

GOD WANTS TO BRING YOU OUT & DISPLAY YOU AS HIS PURE, PRISTINE & PERFECT WORK OF ART – AS HIS TROPHIES OF GRACE ...

Ephesians 2:7 **SLIDE**

*In the ages to come **HE (GOD) MIGHT SHOW** the exceeding riches of His Grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

**SO GOD HAS CHOSEN TO DISPLAY HIS CRAFTSMANSHIP –
THE NEW YOU AND ME – THROUGH HIS GOOD WORKS**

THESE **GOOD WORKS**, WE NOW CAN WALK IN, ARE **SPECIFIC
EXPRESSIONS OF GOD'S WORKMANSHIP OF YOU ...**

THEY ARE PURE, PRISTINE & PERFECT DISPLAYS OF HIS
WORKMANSHIP OF YOU ...

**GOD SHOWS YOU OFF THROUGH THE GOOD WORKS HE
GIVES YOU TO EXPRESS & SHARE**

THESE GOOD WORKS ARE PRE-PREPARED

Ephesians 2:10 **SLIDE**

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

WE DON'T HAVE TO PRAY THEM UP ...

THEY ARE PRE-PREPARED.

THEY ARE THERE ALREADY WAITING FOR YOU TO LET THEM
FLOW.

***THEY ARE LIKE PRE-PREPARED FOOD WHICH YOU JUST HAVE
TO HEAT & SERVE ... NO COOKING INVOLVED.***

THESE GOOD WORKS ARE GOD'S GOOD WORKS NOT OURS

GOD PREPARED THEM.

WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO CREATE THEM.

THEY ARE GIVEN TO US BY HIS GRACE ... ALREADY MADE.

WE ARE CALLED TO 'WALK IN' THESE 'GOOD WORKS'

Ephesians 2:10 **SLIDE**

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

The term "walk" here denotes the habitual tenor of the life; it is to be spent in an atmosphere of good works. (Pulpit Commentary)

- ***To walk all around ... to conduct oneself***
- ***A GRACE WALK ... NOT FORCED ...***

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

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.

These are characteristic of a regenerated life. - Ellicott

Our everyday way of life now starts to radiate with His glory ...

THIS IS WHAT I WROTE ON FACEBOOK –

The Good-Works God has prepared for us to 'Walk in' aren't necessarily great feats of ministry such as healing the sick or raising the dead ...

They are gentle, daily expressions of who He has already made us to be ...

They are the organic displays of His wonderful workmanship in us, tenderly flowing out through our new lives, to someone else ...

They are pure manifestations of His Grace and Glory shining out into a dark and desperate world.

A NEW WAY OF WALKING

Romans 6:4 **SLIDE**

*... Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life.***

WALKING IN THE PREPARED WORKS IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAY OF WALKING.

WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE, JOY & PEACE – THE SMOOTH STYLE – THE FOREIGN SELFLESSNESS – THE UNDESERVED KINDNESS – THE GRACE GIVING ...

HOW DOES IT WORK IN OUR DAILY LIVES?

WHenever there is a need **NEAR YOU, AROUND YOU – THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY **FOR YOU** ...**

****SLIDE** A PRE-PREPARED GOOD WORK WILL ARRIVE JUST IN TIME BY EXPRESS POST.**

THERE IS A GOOD WORK BRIMMING ... READY FOR YOU TO APPLY.

PEOPLE ARE TAKEN BACK ... IMPACTED ... THEY ARE NOT USED TO THIS MAGNIFICENT ARTWORK MANIFESTING BEFORE THEM.

GOD HAS PRE-PREPARED **A STORE-HOUSE OF WORKS** WAITING FOR YOU TO ACCEPT & ALLOW THEM TO FLOW THROUGH YOU. **SLIDE** A BANK BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WITH GOOD WORKS READY FOR YOU TO WITHDRAW FROM.

THERE IS NEVER A LACK OF GOOD-WORKS FOR THE NEW CREATION PERSON. THERE IS EXACTLY WHAT IS NEEDED AT ANY GIVEN TIME – FOR ANY GIVEN INCIDENT. THERE IS A ‘GOOD-WORK’ WAITING FOR EVERY OPPORTUNITY WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS TO SOMEONE ... IT’S AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY GOD’S GOOD-WORKS ... **YOU HAVE AN ABUNDANCE ... YOU WILL NEVER RUN OUT ...**

2 Corinthians 9:8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*... God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, **you will abound in every good work.***

ABOUND = (perisseusai) to superabound, be in excess, be superfluous ...

2 Timothy 3:16-17 Berean Literal Bible

*Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, having been fully equipped toward **every good work.***

2 Timothy 2:21 Berean Study Bible

So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and **prepared for every good work**

Acts 9:36 KJV

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was **full of good works** and alms-deeds which she did.

1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

- **WE WALK IN THEM WHICH MEANS, THESE GOOD-WORKS ARE BIGGER THAN US**

THE GOOD WORKS LEAD US & **WE FOLLOW THEM**

THESE WORKS DETERMINE OUR WALK
THESE WORKS DICTATE OUR DIRECTION
THESE WORKS DECIDE OUR VOCATION

Jesus said –

Matthew 5:16 **SLIDE**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

N.B. ‘LET’

IT DOESN'T SAY STRIVE OR PRAY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN ...

THE WORK IS PRE-PREPARED ... LOOKING FOR THE CHANNEL ...

YOU ARE THE CHANNEL ...

LET IT HAPPEN.

THERE IS AN ALLOTTED TIME, WHILE WE ARE HERE, TO USE WHAT IS PREPARED & SET ASIDE FOR US TO EXPRESS ...

THERE IS NOT AN ALLOTTED QUANTITY OF GOOD-WORKS – THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE = MORE THAN WE COULD EVER USE ...

BUT THERE IS AN ALLOTTED TIME FOR US TO MANIFEST AS MANY AS POSSIBLE ... DAY AFTER DAY UNTIL OUR DAYS COME TO A CLOSE.

WE CAN COMPLETE OUR QUOTA.

ARE YOU WALKING IN & MANIFESTING THESE PRE-PREPARED GOOD-WORKS THROUGH YOU ...

HEAVEN MANIFESTS HERE ON EARTH WHEN YOU MINISTER HIS GRACE

Hebrews 13:20-21 **SLIDE**

*Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ **make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.***

Paul ... I have finished the work ... (see 2 Timothy 4:7)

3 John 1:3 Berean Study Bible

For I was overjoyed when the brothers came and testified about your devotion to the truth, in which you continue to walk. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

I also love to hear testimonies of how God has led you in His Good-Works through the week.

This is a daily occurrence and when we tell of how God used us, and we walked in His 'Pre-prepared Good Works', we are not boasting in ourselves, but in His Amazing Grace.