

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

Good Works

I know a few things about those. **You know a few things about what?** I know a few things about good works. **I'd like to hear what you know about good works. So, go ahead, I'm listening. Tell me what you know.** First, I know only what I have been taught. I am not pridefully holding up what I know. I only know what I have heard and seen and learned and received from you. And even then, my knowing, is faulty. **Understood, go ahead.** Most importantly, I have learned, your salvation is a free gift. Nothing I have done or could ever do would earn or merit my salvation. Trying to earn or merit my salvation, by doing good works, would not be pleasing to you in any way, shape or form. **No, it would not.** What is pleasing to you, is receiving my salvation by faith in all that Jesus Christ has done for me on the cross. His death and resurrection secured my salvation and has given me a completely new life in Him. He is my Savior and Lord. You are my God and Father. I have been filled by your Holy Spirit, who is like a deposit, guaranteeing my inheritance in heaven. All this has come to me by faith, as a gift. **Yes.** None of what you have given to me has been earned. So, I have nothing to boast about. How am I doing so far? **You have listened and learned well. Keep going.**

So, I can confidently say that I have not been saved by good works. **That is correct.** But on the day, I turned my life over to you, a work was started in me. **What sort of work?** You have been molding and shaping my life. I am your workmanship. You are the potter. I am the clay. I am the work of your hands. **Yes, you are, without a doubt.** You have been preparing me to do good work for you. You have given me gifts and talents and abilities. You have been teaching and training me. You have been getting me ready. **What have I been getting you ready for?** You have good works already lined up and ready for me to do for you. You have a purpose and plan for my life. You have places you want me to go. You have things you want me to do. **How do you feel about that?** I feel excited. I feel grateful. I feel thankful. The idea that you want to use me to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans is incredibly amazing. The thought that I can bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name is astounding. To all of this I can only say, "Here I am Lord, use me!" **That is very good. Yes, I will use you to do good works that I have prepared for you. You will bear fruit for my Kingdom and bring glory to my name.** Thank you, Heavenly Father.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the free gift of salvation I have in Jesus Christ. I know I have not been saved by any of my good works. Thank you for molding and shaping my life. I'm the work of your hands. Help me to do the good works you have prepared for me. Amen

Promises *God's Workmanship*

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

NIV Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *God's Masterpiece*

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

NLT Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *What He Has Made Us*

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

NRSV Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *God's Handiwork*

For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment *and* made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.] For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

AMP Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *His Workmanship*

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

NASB Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *His Workmanship*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

ESV Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *His Workmanship*

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

NKJV Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *The Making*

Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

MSG Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *Who Has Made Us*

Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it. It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.

TLB Ephesians 2:8-10

Promises *God Has Made Us What We Are*

I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it. God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

NCV Ephesians 2:8-10

His Workmanship

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – Ephesians 2:8-10

In Context: *Read Ephesians 2*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father, thank you for the free gift of salvation I have in Jesus Christ. I know I have not been saved by any of my good works. Thank you for molding and shaping my life. I'm the work of your hands. Help me to do the good works you have prepared for me. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why is your salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned by your good works?

When did you come to believe in Jesus Christ and place all your faith in Him?

What led up to you turning your life over to Christ as your Savior and Lord?

How has your Heavenly Father been molding and shaping your life since the day you gave your life to Him?

How encouraging is it for you to know that your Heavenly Father is making you into His masterpiece?

How has your Heavenly Father been preparing and making you able to do good works for Him?

What fruit has your life born for the kingdom of God as you have done the good works, He prepared for you?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Be ready and willing to go and do all the good works that your Heavenly Father has prepared you to do for Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that your Heavenly Father is making you ready and able to go and do good works for Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group what good works your Heavenly Father has given you to do for Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you do the good work that God created you to do.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, I will do the good work you created me to do.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, what good work can I do for you today?
