



Sermon Notes: August 2, 2015

# God's Workmanship

9 of 14 from the teaching series "The Messiah's Community"  
Ephesians 2:8-10 • Pastor Paul Bradford

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## Ephesians 2:8-10

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

### God created you in Christ with the capacity to do good.

- *God's handiwork* - that which is made; God's work in creation
- *created in Christ Jesus* - Paul isn't talking about God creating us physically, but of the new creation in Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 65:17*)
- When we accept Christ and are born again into Christ, we enter into his purpose. As a new creation in Christ, we can live his truly good life.

### As you live from Christ's life, goodness will naturally flow from you.

- *created...to do good works* - we are created anew for a purpose - to do good works
- When God creates something for a purpose, he gives that thing the capacity to fulfill its purpose naturally, without striving. Apple trees naturally produce Apples. In the new creation, goodness will naturally flow from us - we don't need to strive.
- Other religions teach that good works result in salvation; Christianity teaches salvation results in good works.

### God formed you to accomplish his purpose.

- *which God prepared in advance for us to do* - God prepared good works in advance - we are created for a purpose. You have a God-ordained purpose for your life, and he has given you all you need to fulfill it.
- Good works are all things that are done for God's glory - the common things of life, done in love and faithfulness; your place in the ministry and call of the local church; and your place in reaching others for Christ.
- God never places a load upon us that we cannot bear - he knows our unique abilities and limitations as people. His purpose is a natural fit. His "yoke is easy" and his "burden is light" (*Matthew 11:28-30*)

### The good we do is the radiance of Christ in us, so all we do is for God's glory alone!

- *Ephesians 3:20-21*

## Our Response

From a place of rest, walk by the Spirit into God's unique purpose for your life in Christ.

- Place of rest - every morning, take time to be still and rest in the truth that Christ is in you and through him you can live your day for his glory.
- Walk by the Spirit - walk into the day with confidence, alert to divine interruptions, for each day has purpose.
- God's unique purpose - be aware of your purpose - you will find it in your daily interactions with others, your service to the church, and in sharing your faith in word and deed using your unique style of evangelism.