

PREPARED FOR GOOD WORKS

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Year-end moments invite reflection. What is God preparing to do through me next? God did not save you to park you on a shelf. He saved you on purpose for a purpose. And so as we stand on the edge of a new year, our text today should help us reset our thinking. 2026 is not about doing more things. It's about coming to a better understanding of why God has saved us in the first place. Today, we'll talk about what God says about who you are and what He has already prepared for you to walk in.

Questions

I. Ephesians 2:8-9: Saved by Grace: The Foundation, Not the Finish Line

- A. Ephesians 2:8a: *For you are saved by _____ through faith, ...*
 - 1. Salvation begins with God - not us. God acted when we were powerless to fix ourselves.
 - 2. Ephesians 2:9: *not from _____, so that no one can boast. When we come to the cross, the ground is perfectly level.*
- B. We must not misunderstand grace.
 - 1. Grace is not opposed to effort. Grace is opposed to earning.
 - 2. Works are not irrelevant. But they are the wrong foundation. God gets all the glory in our salvation - not us.
 - a) Grace doesn't remove responsibility - it removes anxiety.
 - b) You have been saved from self-reliance so you can live in faithful obedience.

II. Ephesians 2:10: We Are His Workmanship - A New Identity

- A. Ephesians 2:10a: *For we are his _____, created in Christ Jesus...*
- B. Ephesians 2:10a: *It's not that you were His workmanship. He says you _____.* A present reality.
- C. Where the new identity comes from:
 - 1. Ephesians 2:10b: _____ in Christ Jesus ...
 - 2. Created: "to be brought into existence."
 - a) Ephesians 4:24: *and to put on the _____, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.*
 - b) 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation ...*

III. Ephesians 2:10: Created for Good Works - Prepared Ahead of Time

- A. Ephesians 2:10c: *created in Christ Jesus for _____.*
 - 1. Good works are not a bonus feature of the Christian life. **They are part of its design.**
- B. Your service is not accidental:
 - 1. Ephesians 2:10d: *which God prepared _____.*
- C. Three important truths:
 - 1. Good works are intentional
 - 2. Good works are personal: Paul says these works were prepared _____.
 - 3. Good works are ready - we do them, not invent them
 - a) Ephesians 2:10e (NASB): *so that we would _____ in them.*

IV. As We Close

- A. God intends the local church to function together.
- B. We are His body (1:22); We are in His household (2:19); We are a living structure (2:21)
- C. God is not asking you to do everything, but he is asking you do **something**.
- D. What is one good work you can walk in this year?
- E. The path has been prepared. Will you walk in it?

1. Why is it important to understand that we are saved by grace but created for good works?

2. Paul says we are God's "workmanship." What does that word tell us about our value and our role in the body of Christ?

3. God has prepared good works ahead of time for us to walk in. What are some ways we might recognize the works God has already placed in front of us?

4. Which of the ministries mentioned in the sermon resonates most with you, and why?

5. What is one practical step you could take in the coming weeks to begin walking in a specific area of service? Who could you talk to or pray with to help you follow through?

Answers

Workmanship
Ahead of Time
Walk
Grace
For Us
Works
Created
New Self
Are
Good Works