



"FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS"

EPHESIANS 2:9-10

Paul's concern to eliminate all human boasting;

1 CORINTHIANS 4:7 (see also 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

For who sees anything different in you? *What do you have that you did not receive?* If then you received it, *why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:21-23

So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours...and you are Christ's...

GALATIANS 6:14

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Good works are God's work;

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for *it is God who works in you*, both to will and to *work* for his good pleasure.

HEBREWS 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace...*equip you with everything good* that you may do his will, *working in us that which is pleasing in his sight*, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever...

EZEKIEL 36:27

And I will put my Spirit within you, and *cause you to walk in my statutes* and be careful to obey my rules.

JOHN 3:20-21

"...But whoever does what is true comes to the light, *so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.*"

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and *may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power*, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you...

JOHN 15:4-5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

The creation parallel;

GENESIS 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

JOHN 1:3

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

GALATIANS 6:15

For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, *but a new creation.*

EPHESIANS 4:24

...put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

REVELATION 4:11

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, *for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.*”

The workmanship of God;

ROMANS 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in *the things that have been made*. So they are without excuse.

ROMANS 9:22-23

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has *prepared beforehand* for glory—

Everything that saves us is the grace of God

Everything we do after salvation is the creation of God

Scripture’s consistent appeal to the newness of our creation as a call to good works;

EPHESIANS 4:22

..put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires...*put on the new self, created after the likeness of God* in true righteousness and holiness.

COLOSSIANS 3:9-10

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have *put on the new self*, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

The works-producing creation is therefore an accurate evaluation of saving faith;

JAMES 2:14

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

Learning to trust the Author of our story;

GENESIS 50:15-20

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ ‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, *for am I in the place of God?* ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today...

A life-changing shift in perspective;

“I want to ask this God into my life “

→ “I want to ask for the life this God has prepared for me”

Learning to trust our Designer;

PSALM 139:13-16

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made... ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed

substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

JOB 10:8-11

⁸ Your hands fashioned and made me... ⁹ Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? ¹⁰ Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? ¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.

JEREMIAH 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...”

ACTS 17:26

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having *determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,*

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know *the plans I have for you*, declares the LORD, *plans for welfare and not for evil*, to give you a future and a hope.

ROMANS 12:4-6

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-11

⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

GALATIANS 1:15

...[God] had *set me apart before I was born*, and who called me by his grace...

“I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God’s thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest, and most precious thing in all thinking.”

—George MacDonald

Questions for Midweek Bible Study

The path of our life is planned by God. A closely connected teaching is the truth that our personality, character, and traits are also designed by God—for *His glory*.

How does this inform our understanding of physical or mental ailments, even life-long ailments? Deformities? Poor health conditions? Handicaps?

To answer this, read: **EXODUS 4:11** and **JOHN 9** focusing especially on **VERSE 3**.

What do these passages teach us about the Author of life-altering physical deformities? How can we praise God in light of this?

Reflect upon the times that you have wanted God to change the path of your life. In what ways have you wanted to “invite God into your life?” Think of the frustration and disappointments you have experienced when God’s plans did not match your own ideas. How has **EPHESIANS 1:4-2:10** changed your perspective on this?

Consider some of the attributes that God has created in you. How many of your traits would you change if you could? In what ways does this reflect the following?;

Lack of trust in the Designer and Story-Writer

Pride of believing you can write a better Story than God

Sinful desire for reasons to boast in self rather than God

Sinful fear of man, valuing the opinions of man higher than that of God

If you had the power to open your heart and literally pour all of the teaching of **EPHESIANS 1:4-2:10** directly into your soul in such a way that you believed it fully and trusted it completely, what differences do you think this would make in the following?;

Obedience

Fearing God rather than man

Forgiveness of others

Thinking more highly of others than self

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