

Ephesians 2:8-10 His Workmanship

When most people are boarding a Cruise ship there is an excitement – getting away!

A)Interested in the shows – the activities – the food – how big is their cabin going to be

B)The one thing they are not checking out is the life boats.

C)The ship going down is the furthest thing on their minds.

Like when people board an airplane. – Ever notice how many people are not paying attention to the safety instructions.

A)Heard this all before – right – Why so many airlines have gotten really creative in their safety instruction videos.

B)Try anything from Rap to comedy to celebrity spokes people to get people to watch the videos

C)Now there are those rare people like myself who when I get on an airplane take notice right away – where the exist is.

1)What am I going to have to do to get there – who is probably going to need my help.

D)In today's world where you can pre-pick your own seat – I always try to sit in the exist row or close to it.

But for most people when boarding a plane or a cruise ship – they are not interested in those things.

A)But when the Titanic started to sink – guess what was the most important thing on people's minds – Where are the life boats?

B)How many life boats are there and how many people can they hold?

C)What does that have to do with our study here in Ephesians today?

Our passage deals with Salvation – Paul begins the chapter by telling us why we needed saving

A)The Ship was sinking and we needed a lifeboat!

B)Paul describes our former condition in this way – looked at this a few weeks ago –

1)Who we were: Without Life – dead in separated from the very life of God because of our sin

C)Without freedom – we walked according to the course of this world

Walked speaks of a manner of life – a purpose but when Paul attaches the word walked to the course of this world – course = weathervane

A)Not direction – or purpose – driven by the winds

B)Paul is describing – that was us - Moved this way and that way by our lust and desires of our flesh

1)Our purpose was to try and achieve personal lasting happiness.

C)We were without life – Without freedom – without Hope – Destined to encounter the wrath of God because of our rebellion

V.4 But God – God did something – He saw us in our lost and miserable condition and reached out to us.

A)Paul tells us now who we Are – Alive in Christ – Destined for Glory

From the graveyard to glory!

B)Noted that Paul tells us why God did this: Because he is rich in mercy – Great love and great Grace

1)For all of eternity – He is going to be displaying His grace and love to us Blessing upon blessing

C)Today we want to consider – How God moves us from the graveyard to glory

D)And What we are now – New purpose because of what Jesus did for us

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

By Grace you have been saved!

A) Grace = undeserved or unmerited favor – NLT
Undeserved privilege –

B) God's Riches at Christ Expense

- We deserved wrath – we received mercy
- We deserved Hell – he offered heaven
- We deserved punishment – Jesus was punished in our place, so we could be blessed

C) By Grace tells us that God is the initiator of our Salvation

1) No one comes unless the father draws him

D) Holy Spirit convicts us of sin

1) Seeker – God was drawing you – Empty – lost
HS was convicting you – something Wrong!

By Grace through faith

A) Grace presents salvation, faith lays hold of salvation

B) It is the gift of God – What do you do when someone gives you a gift – you reach your hand out and receive it right –

1) Embrace it – no effort in that.

C) If my wife gave me a gift for Christmas and I went around talking about – what I did to receive it

1) She held it out – I reached out with great effort to take it and then I unwrapped it/ **man that was tough** – IDIOT

Paul says – Salvation is a gift from God – not of works.... boast

A) This is a big hang up for many people – can't be free

B) **Old Smith Barney commercials** – I want to obtain my salvation the old fashion way –
EARN IT!

C) But if I can earn it – not a gift!

“Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? ² If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. ³ For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith. ⁴ When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something

they have earned.” Romans 4:1-4 NLT

D) Paycheck – doesn't say – gift on it – says earnings right?

E) We can boast in our earnings – You are in Sales – I got a bonus this year because – I was the top seller.

No boasting in heaven – No one saying – I made it here because I did such and such

A) Salvation is the free gift of God – Really it is wasn't free at all – it cost God everything – **Only Begotten son**

B) So Paul tells us – How we are saved – Grace through faith – not of works Boast

C) The last thing he tells us is what we now are – New identity and a new Purpose –

1) Found in this phrase V.10 – **we are his workmanship**

Workmanship in the Greek is the word – Poema – we get our English word Poem from that word.

A) The word literally means Masterpiece –

B) But Poema didn't just speak of poetry that word was used **to describe anything that was deemed as exceptional**

1) Poetry/ Song/ Sculpture/ Painting/ - Exceptional – Masterpiece

C) God calls you and I – His Masterpiece – But understand when he uses that term not talking about **our anatomy**

1) Even though the Bible says we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

D) No God is referring to our Redemption – Key Phrase is created in Christ

The Context – We were lost – Separated from God because of our sin!

A) Without freedom – driven by our lust – Without Hope –

B) But God who is rich in mercy and grace and love reached out to us – **MADE US ALIVE** - saved us

1) Sent Jesus to take the punishment that we deserved
– Jesus took our sin – transferred His
RIGHTEOUSNESS

C) We embrace that by faith – We get saved – we
are placed in Christ – new Position – ALIVE IN
JESUS

**That is what makes us His Masterpiece –
Redemption**

A) Now think about that word – Masterpiece –
Love that the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to use this
word from the art world

B) **Pregnant with meaning**: He could have used
Children, His beloved – His servants, - all true

C) But by using the word Masterpiece – Paul is
giving us a powerful truth.

1) See art is always the expression of the artist
right

D) **Artist express themselves through their Art!**

**Musician – Breakup – Sad song – Achy breaky –
the Blues**

A) Painter – Dark – happy personality – bright

**B) By using this word – Masterpiece Paul is
referring to God as an artist –**

Bb) By doing so – He is saying that you and I GET
TO BE – underserved privilege –

1) the Living breathing expressions.....

C) How do we do that – We are His Workmanship
– created in Christ Jesus.... For good works which
he prepared.... Walk in them

D) New sense of Purpose – **Walk - Created for
good works – walk in**

**Listen God is wanting to Express himself through
you!**

A) His Spirit is alive in us – affect us – We love the
things that He loves – we don't like the things – he
disliked

B) Think about Jesus – the Perfect living breathing
expression of God on planet earth.

C) What did he love? Great expressions of Faith –
Centurion – not seen faith

**D) He loved his followers – He loves His bride the
Church**

1) People: I love Jesus – but I don't love the Church –
doesn't work – **Rob I love you but not Denise -
problems**

What else did Jesus love? Loved the lost

A) His heart went out to people who were lost in
their sin!

B) Compassion – sheep without a shepherd – OH
Jerusalem..... gather you but you were not willing

C) Salvation is a gift – yes – but that also means it
can be refused

D) Jesus presents His gift of salvation – People
refuse it all the time – every day – NOT TODAY!

**His Spirit in us – His life – his heart we love what
he loves – we dislike what he dislikes**

A) There isn't much that Jesus dislikes in the
gospel – Religious Hypocrisy of the religious
leaders – taught one thing – lived another

B) We should dislike that in ourselves and others

C) **He dislikes Legalism** – Laying burdens on
others

1) Jesus only comes down heavy on the religious
legalist

D) Paul to the Judiazers – circumcision – Castrate
themselves

**Being the living breathing expressions of Jesus to
the world**

A) We should have in us a Burden for the lost

**B) Read this week – Story – Kelly Catlin – 23-year
old Silver medalist in cycling in the Olympics**

1) Scholarship to Stanford – Masters in
Mathematics – Committed suicide

C) No reason to keep on living

Time Magazine Article:

A)The CDC issued reports showing that rates of suicide among young people jumped 56% between 2007 and 2016,

B) Department of health survey of 600,000 people

- 1)Between 2009 and 2017, rates of depression among
- kids ages 14 to 17 increased by more than 60%
 - Kids 18 to 21 increased by 46% and the rates doubled among those ages 20 to 21.

– Time Magazine article March 2019

C)Stats like that should burden our hearts – cause us great concern

How do we reach the next Generation!

A)Trip to NZ – Continued trips – Rich – affluent highest suicide rate in the world

B)Listen – if we are merely happy that we are saved Christian friends community – life is great – that is all –

1)Look down on young people

C)We are missing the very heart of God!

Over the years – Look at how those young girls are dressed? – Ever think – not saved

A)Or new in Jesus

B)Youth group – sitting – Thong underwear

1)Again ever think – not saved yet – happy they are at youth group

C)Is there anything we could be doing to reach more people ?

1)Reach more young people

D)Do we even care?

God says – I saved you and put you in Christ for a reason – not just so you could go to heaven

A)You get to be my workmanship – living breathing expression of me to help those who are lost

B)You have been created in Christ Jesus for Good works – things I prepared before hand for you to WALK IN

C)WHOLE NEW PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

D)See your Sphere differently – Job – neighborhood – your family

1)How can I help others see JESUS

D)Augustine writing on the source of a lot of people's discontentment is caused by the disorder of our loves

Purpose Driven Life – 2nd to the Bible as the Best selling book – of all time – Why?

A)People are looking for Purpose – innately realize – made for a purpose

B)Our purpose is to Know God – and to partner with him in his mission to reach the world

C)To love what God loves

1)Two commandments – Love God Love your neighbor

D)How can I best do that – with my time, my life, my gifts, my resources –

E)Life gets exciting when you are living – as His workmanship

The last generation