

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit
Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 12 November 15, 2022 – November 20, 2022

Unit 3: We are God's Artwork

Subject: Made for a Purpose

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

Key Verse:

We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) What we were (Ephesians 2:1-3)**
- 2) What we are (Ephesians 2:4-7)**
- 3) What we are to do (Ephesians 2:8-10)**

Introduction:

GOD is the GOD of purpose. GOD uniquely designed and created everything for HIS purpose, in the beginning, to accomplish HIS will in its specialized way. All that GOD has done or will do is not by accident, its purpose is to please Himself. GOD created through HIS spoken words everything that is necessary for the subsistence of humans, as the apex of HIS creation. GOD created the heavens and earth and the fulness thereof, and said that all that He had created through HIS words was very good. Now, the very creation of man and woman was and is no afterthought of GOD, but is the intentional result of HIS (GOD'S) will, and HIS good pleasure. Man and woman purpose is to glorify and to worship HIM (GOD) in HIS (GOD'S) presence forever. To understand GOD'S purpose for created humankind (read Genesis 3:15). Do know that everyone who comes to GOD by faith in HIS Son (Jesus Christ) has a divine purpose for living; to glorify GOD through works of righteousness and demonstrate HIS (GOD'S) supreme love and graciousness to others.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- What we were (Ephesians 2:1-3)**

Now, we were dead in our sins, because of Adam and Eve disobedience in the garden of Eden. Because of this, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD (Romans 3:23)." And further note in Romans 6:23 that the "wages of sin is death." You see, we were dead in our sins, but GOD made us who believes in HIM through HIS Son (Jesus Christ) alive, and raised us, and seated us with HIS Son (Jesus Christ). You see, every soul is spiritually dead without Jesus Christ. Paul said that they were dead in their transgressions and sin (Ephesians 2:1). Now, we have all walked after the course of the prince of this world some time in our lives. That is the spirit that currently works in the lives of slaves to disobedience, those who do not have any regard for GOD'S Word and will (Ephesians 2:2-3).

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Lesson Pointer # 2

- **What we are (Ephesians 2:4-7)**

GOD emphasizes HIS role as the source of the power of salvation. Paul says that GOD is the agent, who is rich in mercy, and HIS great love as the motivation for extending unmerited favor to sinners (Ephesians 2:4). Now, GOD'S undeserved kindness toward sinners is great because they have no plea or merit to make them acceptable to GOD. Because of GOD'S love, GOD performed three things for those and us who accept salvation through JESUS CHRIST. The first thing is that GOD made us alive in CHRIST JESUS (Ephesians 2:5). Secondly, GOD knows the very plight of the believers, even so, while we were yet still in sin JESUS CHRIST died for the ungodly. Therefore, we believers have been resurrected up together in CHRIST JESUS, now we have a unique and new way of life (Ephesians 2:6a). Thirdly, GOD has seated us with CHRIST JESUS in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6b). Now, all of this is the results of GOD'S grace and HIS kindness towards us through HIS Son CHRIST JESUS (Ephesians 2:7). Knowing that GOD freely gives new life to all who come to HIM by faith as an expression of HIS (GOD'S) undeserved kindness.

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Lesson Pointer # 3

- **What we are to do (Ephesians 2:8-10)**

We are to acknowledge that there is no human effort involved in salvation other than faith, and that is gift of GOD, So, grace by faith is the basis for GOD'S incomparable riches (Ephesians 2:8). We can not acquire salvation by our efforts or works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:9), if we boast, let us boast in the LORD for all HE has done for us (read Psalm 34:2; 1 Corinthians 1:31). Paul explain why salvation is of GOD and not due to humanity or works. Paul says that we are GOD'S workmanship, HIS masterpiece, created by HIM (GOD) in (HIS SON) JESUS CHRIST. GOD is the GOD of purpose, we (believers) are saved and sealed by the Holy Spirit to do good works, knowing that our good works have nothing to do with acquiring salvation, but rather with living a Christian life. It is GOD and GOD alone who determines the acceptable works for those who walk with HIM by faith (Ephesians 2:10).

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Lesson Nuggets:

- 1) **We were dead in our transgression and sin (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13).**
- 2) **GOD who is rich in mercy and in great love, extended HIS unmerited Favor (Ephesians 2:4; Romans 10:12).**
- 3) **We can not acquire salvation by our efforts or works, lest any man should boast; rather, let us boast in the LORD (Ephesians 2:9; Psalm 34:2; 1 Corinthians 1:31).**