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**12 November 15, 20, 2022**

**Unit III: We Are God's Artwork**

**Topic: Made for a Purpose**

**Scripture: 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)**

**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:**

Acts Chapter 28, Paul was under house arrest in Rome for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although a prisoner he was visited by messengers from various churches. Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians believers and sent it by Tychicus. This letter did not begin with a personal greeting because it was to be circulated to other local churches. Ephesians is a letter of encouragement chapters 1-3 teaches believers how to nurture and maintain unity in Christ. Paul speaks of our salvation, forgiveness, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the power /authority to do God's will and the hope of eternal life. Chapters 4-6, Paul explains how each individual member is a part, which must work together to eradicate all sin, which cripples the unity in the body of Christ. The church is in constant battle with the forces of darkness, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians. 6:12 tells us, we are God's representatives on earth—this lesson challenges us to live lives worthy of the calling we have received.

**Pointer # 1**

**"What We Were" (Ephesians 2:1-3)**

Paul reminds us, "What We Were" ---What our spiritual Condition was Without Christ.

Romans 5:8 reminds us that while we were yet sinners...when our live was governed by wicked and unholy ambitions and we were driven by the lust of the flesh and the standards of the world. Satan the prince of the power of the air was our master. We broke our moral and spiritual covenant with God. God didn't abandon us; our sins cut us off from Him. We were rebellious and immature, we wanted to be free and live as we pleased. But like the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32—after wasting his inheritance, Luke 15:16 (NIV) says, "He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. Just like the prodigal son we was sinking in sin until we came to ourselves and remembered we have a Father in Heaven that's willing and able to supply all our needs. Just as God heard the despair of the prodigal son, He heard and hears our cry and demonstrates his love, grace, and mercy by reconciling us to himself through Christ. We now have the privilege of encouraging others. Through our faith in Jesus, we stand acquitted before God. But we are never to forget our past condition from which Jesus saved us—those memories are the best fuel for our gratitude toward God. If God loved us while we were rebels surely, he will strength us to fulfill His purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8 (NIV), "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Everyone who comes to God by faith in Jesus has a divine purpose for living: to praise and worship God, to glorify Him through good works, to witness to others and demonstrate God's love, grace, and mercy.

## **Pointer #2**

### **“What We Are” (Ephesians 2:4-7)**

**Remember Confession comes before Salvation and Salvation involves Forgiveness (of sins)**

**In the previous verses (Ephesians 2:1-3), Paul describes what we were; what our biggest problems were apart from Christ and before Salvation. Paul stated we were Dead in their sins (Roman 6:23). Thanks be to God that this was not how the story ended. God is a God of purpose. Nothing he does is by accident. In Ephesians 2:4-7 God’s perfect solution is found only in Christ. (Ephesians 2:4a) But God; two words that changed everything; “But God” emphasizes God’s role as the source of the power of salvation. After Salvation: God’s mercy is at work; from wrath to Grace. It required much Mercy to remove so much misery and to pardon such transgressions. Paul pointed out, that it was God’s great love that was experienced by all (Ephesians 2:4b), Wherewith He loved us. John 3:16,” God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that who so ever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Mercy appears in the bible as it relates to forgiveness or withholding punishment. God shows both Mercy and Grace, but they are not the same. Mercy withholds a punishment we deserve; Grace gives a blessing we don’t deserve. In Mercy, God chose to cancel our sin debt by sacrificing His perfect Son (who is sinless) in our place. Ephesians 2:5-7— Salvation is indeed of the Lord. God lifted us while we were dead, (in our sins) and has quickened us (made us alive) together with Christ, now we have ben position to share His throne in Heaven. God does everything for His glory and the good of His people, working thru people like you and me. The visible evidence of salvation and a powerful testimony to the lost are the good works that we allow God to perform through us. There are no, “bench members,” in Christ’s church because every believer was made for a unique purpose. We now live in assurance knowing full well, that only God has the perfect solution to our biggest problems and down falls. God has shown us His endless Grace toward us through Christ Jesus, today, tomorrow and in the coming ages. We now, live in victory, knowing the words “but God” two words that changed everything. The great outcome: our enjoyment of God in Christ forever, Eternal life.**

**What We Were? Sinners.**

**What We Are? Christian, Sinners saved by Grace. We are now a new creature. 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things become new.**

## **Pointer #3**

### **“What We Are to Do?” (Ephesians 2: 8-10)**

**During Salvation: God Grace—Saving (Sanctification) Ephesians 2:8-10. There is no human effort involved in salvation other than faith, (even that is God’s gift). Since no one can acquire salvation by their efforts, NO ONE CAN BOAST. Jesus completed salvation on the cross and it is a finished work, (see John 19:30). Also work has no part in Salvation. Christians will show evidence of the change in their lives by the good work that they do through Christ. The good works are valid evidence that someone is walking as one of God’s chosen. Your works has nothing to do with salvation. You work because you are saved. We are saved and sanctified, means that God’s Word has had an effect on us. It is “through the word” and the blood of Jesus that God cleanses us. What can wash away my sins nothing but the blood of Jesus? (Ephesians 5:26; John 17:17).**

**Ephesians 2:10—we are his workmanship (His creation, His artwork, His handiwork, created in His image, His portrait) God saves, not merely to save us from the wrath we rightly deserve, But also to make something beautiful of us, we are somebody. God is a God of purpose, even in the salvation of the lost. What We Are to Do—Believe in Jesus the Christ. Thank God for the free gift of Salvation. Let God use us for His Glory. Let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us daily!!!**