

Series: The Wealth of Christ and the Walk of the Christian

# FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP

EPHESIANS 2:10

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## ***Ephesians 2:10***

<sup>10</sup> ***For we are his workmanship,*** *created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Introduction:

We find in verses eight and nine the gift of God to us. It was by the grace of God that He saved us. Again, there was nothing that we could have done to get us in the “good graces” of God to earn His favor; it is only made possible by the grace of God.

Note what we have seen up to this point about God’s grace:

- Grace Has Given Us All Spiritual Blessings (1:3)
- Grace Has Made Us Accepted In Jesus Christ (1:6)
- Grace Reached Out To Us While We Were Dead In Our Sins and Headed to Hell – (2:1-4)
- Grace Loved Us (2:4)

- Grace Gave Us Life (2:5)
- Grace Has Secured the Christian's Future (2:6-7)
- Grace Secured Our Salvation (2:8-9)

Everything we possess as believers is ours through and by the grace of God. We earned nothing we have received. We deserved nothing we have received. We purchased nothing we have received. Everything we have in Jesus Christ has been given to us by the free grace of Almighty God.

It is not of works as verse nine tells us because if it was of works then we would have something to boast of ourselves and not of Christ.

If it were possible that we could find one glimpse of hope in reconciling ourselves back to God, then Christ suffered, bled, and died that cruel death on the cross for nothing.

Now, we come to verse ten which is talking about our works after salvation.

We read in James

***James 2:18-20***

*<sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will*

*shew thee my faith by my works.* <sup>19</sup> *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.* <sup>20</sup> *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?***

Remember we are not saved **by** works but **unto** good works.

The Bible speaks of different kinds of work, but none are saving works.

- The Works of the Law – Galatians 2:16, 3:11

### **Galatians 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> *Knowing that a man is not justified by **the works of the law**, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by **the works of the law**: for by **the works of the law** shall no flesh be justified.*

### **Galatians 3:11**

<sup>11</sup> *But that no man is justified by **the law** in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

- The Works of the Flesh – Galatians 5:19-21

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> *Now **the works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,* <sup>20</sup> *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance,*

*emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,<sup>21</sup>  
Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such  
like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told  
you in time past, that they which do such things shall  
not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- The Works of Darkness – Romans 13:12,  
Ephesians 5:11

### **Romans 13:12**

<sup>12</sup> *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us  
therefore cast off **the works of darkness**, and let us put  
on the armour of light.*

### **Ephesians 5:11**

<sup>11</sup> *And have no fellowship with the **unfruitful works of  
darkness**, but rather reprove them.*

- Dead Works – Hebrews 6:1

### **Hebrews 6:1**

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of  
Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the  
foundation of repentance **from dead works**, and of  
faith toward God,*

- The Works That Lead to Death – Romans 6:23

### **Romans 6:23**

<sup>23</sup> For the **wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- The Works of Righteousness Titus 3:5

### **Titus 3:5**

<sup>5</sup> Not by **works of righteousness** which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Over the next few weeks we will consider Ownership, Occupation and Operation from this passage:

Note:

## **1. OWNERSHIP – HIS WORKMANSHIP**

The words in the Bible are very important.

The words in the first part of this verse are vital to understanding its importance and meaning.

The word “workmanship” means, “that which is made, a work, a work of art”. It comes from the word that gives us the word “poem”. It refers to a “piece of literary workmanship.” It came to refer to an author’s

greatest literary achievement. In other words, it refers to his “masterpiece.”

When we think of this workmanship we think of the potter and the clay over in the Old Testament.

Turn to Jeremiah 18:1-6

***Jeremiah 18:1-6***

*<sup>1</sup> The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, <sup>2</sup> Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. <sup>3</sup> Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. <sup>4</sup> And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. <sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>6</sup> O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.*

***Isaiah 64:8***

*<sup>8</sup> But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*

Notice

## A. The Matter Upon the Potter's Heart – "Clay"

- Remember Clay is Undesirable

No one wants clay but the potter. No one has a need for clay, but the potter. No one places a value on clay but the potter. No one has a desire for clay but the potter.

The reasons clay is so undesirable are:

- Clay is Filthy

When we consider the environment and the elements that surround clay, we begin to understand why the clay is filthy. Clay is surrounded by nothing but dirt and more clay. Clay is almost always found in the bank of a river bed.

Clay in its raw, unfound, unchanged and unclean state is the essence of filth. This is a picture of a lost sinner, when Jesus finds them.

### ***Isaiah 64:6***

*<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

- Clay is Formless

Clay in its natural form has no defined dimensions.

Notice in Ephesians 2:1, 12, we were without hope.

***Ephesians 2:1***

*<sup>1</sup> And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

***Ephesians 2:12***

*<sup>12</sup> That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

- Clay is Feeble

Clay has no strength in itself. It possesses no power source that can produce any strength.

Without any strength, clay cannot walk, talk or even think. Its feebleness is best demonstrated in its inability to change itself or its environment.

We are reminded of this again in Romans 5:6:

***Romans 5:6***

*<sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*



Clay is not only “Undesirable” but also

- Clay is Undependable
  - Clay Never Did Anything

Clay has never benefited anything or anybody in its natural state.

A lost sinner, in their natural state, has never contributed one spiritual thing to the kingdom of God.

God does not recognize the works or self-efforts of mankind to attempt to impress God and therefore, gain entrance into Heaven.

- Clay Never Determined Anything

When we look at the natural elements of the earth, we can read where coal, iron and steel have all contributed to the welfare and betterment of mankind.

But not clay.

Clay never has been the deciding factor or element in any situations. This is a picture of how useless a lost sinner is.

He does not fit in this world, nor can he fit in God's world.

- Clay Never Decorated Anything

No woman has ever worn a clay necklace or a clay ring. While diamonds and pearls are worn by many, clay is ugly and cannot decorate anything. No one wants a useless lump of clay hanging around their neck. The same applies to a lost sinner. They try to decorate their world of sin, but in the end they are discarded and refused as a lost sinner.

Not only is clay “Undesirable and Undependable” but also:

- Clay is Undeserving

- Clay Cannot Earn Anything

In the relationship between the potter and the clay, the clay has absolutely no way of earning or working for anything that would produce merit with the potter.

The potter has a love in his heart for clay, but not because the clay deserves it, but because the potter naturally loves the clay.

This is the exact picture of the relationship between a lost sinner and God.

- Clay Cannot Express Anything

Clay is lifeless, formless and useless in its place beneath the ground down by the riverside and cannot express anything.

- Clay Cannot Execute Anything

Clay cannot get up and free itself from the entanglement of its environment, and travel to the potter's house.

Left along, the clay is doomed to exist only in its state of dirtiness and entanglement. Left alone, the sinner will die in their sinful state without hope.

Not only do we see in this story “The Matter Upon the Potter’s Heart” but also:

### B. The Motive Upon the Potter’s Heart

In the potter's house there are many beautiful vessels that express and exhibit the honor and the handiwork of the potter. These vessels are finished vessels and require no more molding at the hands of the potter. They are on display as a trophy and tribute to the potter, whose loving heart and hands has made them.

His joy is seeking and securing more clay. Our heavenly Father is just like the potter. There are already thousands of saints surrounding God, but that desire in His heart to seek and secure more lost sinners.

The reasons are:

- To Reveal His Grace

Grace always seeks and saves.

- To Reflect His Glory

Only from a finished vessel, can the potter ever receive any glory.

- To Receive His Gain

Even though the potter has gained many beautiful vessels, he still wants more clay. His gain comes from the finished product. All his work is profitable when he sits back and gazes with love upon the finished vessel. His words could be: "look at what I have made".

We are His Workmanship.

Close Part 1:

Thank God that we are HIS WORKMANSHIP.

As clay in the potters hand He is molding and making us into a vessel that can bring honor and glory to Him.

## ***Ephesians 2:10***

*<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Because He is the Owner He has the right to make us into that which He desires, and remember His way is perfect, and He makes no mistakes.

Paul is saying that the redeemed of God are His masterpieces.

The saved are the greatest work of the Master Potter.

No artist paints a painting to hide it in a closet.

No sculptor fashions a sculpture just to hide it away in an unseen place.

No writer pens a literary work to keep it away from the eyes of others.

Every artist wants his paintings to be seen by many.

Every sculptor wants his work to be viewed by others.

Every writer wants his words to be read by other people.

The saved are the greatest letter ever written by the hand of the Master Author.

The redeemed of God are the result of God's love.

We are saved because He took the shapeless, dead clay of our lives in His loving, powerful hands and He molded us into something new for His glory.

With loving care and infinite skill, God shaped us by His grace.