

We are God's Workmanship

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

This verse comes on the heels of Paul telling the Ephesians unequivocally that only by grace they can be saved and good works have absolutely nothing to do with salvation. At first glance this text seems to contradict what was said in verses 8 and 9. But, God has nothing against good works done by a Christian. In fact a Christian will do good as an outgrowth of his faith. And, that is what this verse is about.

As children of God we are God's workmanship. The Greek for this word sometimes has the connotation of a "work of art." To be the product of someone who has very lovingly crafted something. We say that a craftsman communicates with his work so God continues to do so with us.

The Greek word for "workman" is poiema, the same word from which we get our word "poem." God continues to work in each of us in order to make us what he wants of us – and what God creates is always a thing of beauty!

In Holy Baptism the old man is put to death and a new man is created (cf. Eph 4:22–24). The new creation embraces and benefits all those who are "in Christ"

God has much work for us to do. Good works are a crucial aspect of the Christian life. Our good works, however, become an expression of thankfulness for all Christ has done for us, not an attempt to win heaven.

With our new God-given spiritual life we are indeed able to respond to God's will. We are able, albeit imperfectly, to do what God wants. It is not that we have to, but rather that we want to do God's will.

All the ways of holiness and righteousness are God's design and preparation. We need not puzzle about and search for what may please God, he has long ago mapped out the entire course. They all spring from faith.

This is how we are transformed: from dead men walking in trespasses and sins (2:1, 5) into living, newly created children of God who walk in good works.

When we walk around what God would have us do, he forgives and sets new opportunities before us.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for calling me into your family and giving me the ability to perform what you give us to do. Amen.