

EPHESIANS

God's Magnum Opus

Ephesians 2:10



Our Faith is NOT

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- Primarily a religion of ideas, but a religion of participation, of involvement, and of fellowship with God in Christ.
- We are called into fellowship with God's Son, have been crucified with Christ, have been baptized into His death, have put off the old self and have put on Christ, and will be united with Him in resurrection.



Ephesians 2:10

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10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

In v. 10, We See:

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1. God's Role in Salvation

- What does it mean to be God's "workmanship?"

2. Man's Responsibility to God

- What does our being God's "workmanship" require of us?

God's “workmanship?” EPHESIANS

ποίημα
poiēma

“that which has been made; a
work”

Other Translations:

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- **NIV:** “handiwork”
- **HCSB:** “creation”
- **NLT:** “masterpiece”
- **F.F. Bruce translates it:** “His work of art,
His masterpiece”

If I’m being honest, I am a little
uncomfortable referring to myself this
way...

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood **through what has been made**, so that they are without excuse.



And Yet...

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The earth is
NOT His
masterpiece.

God, the Creator

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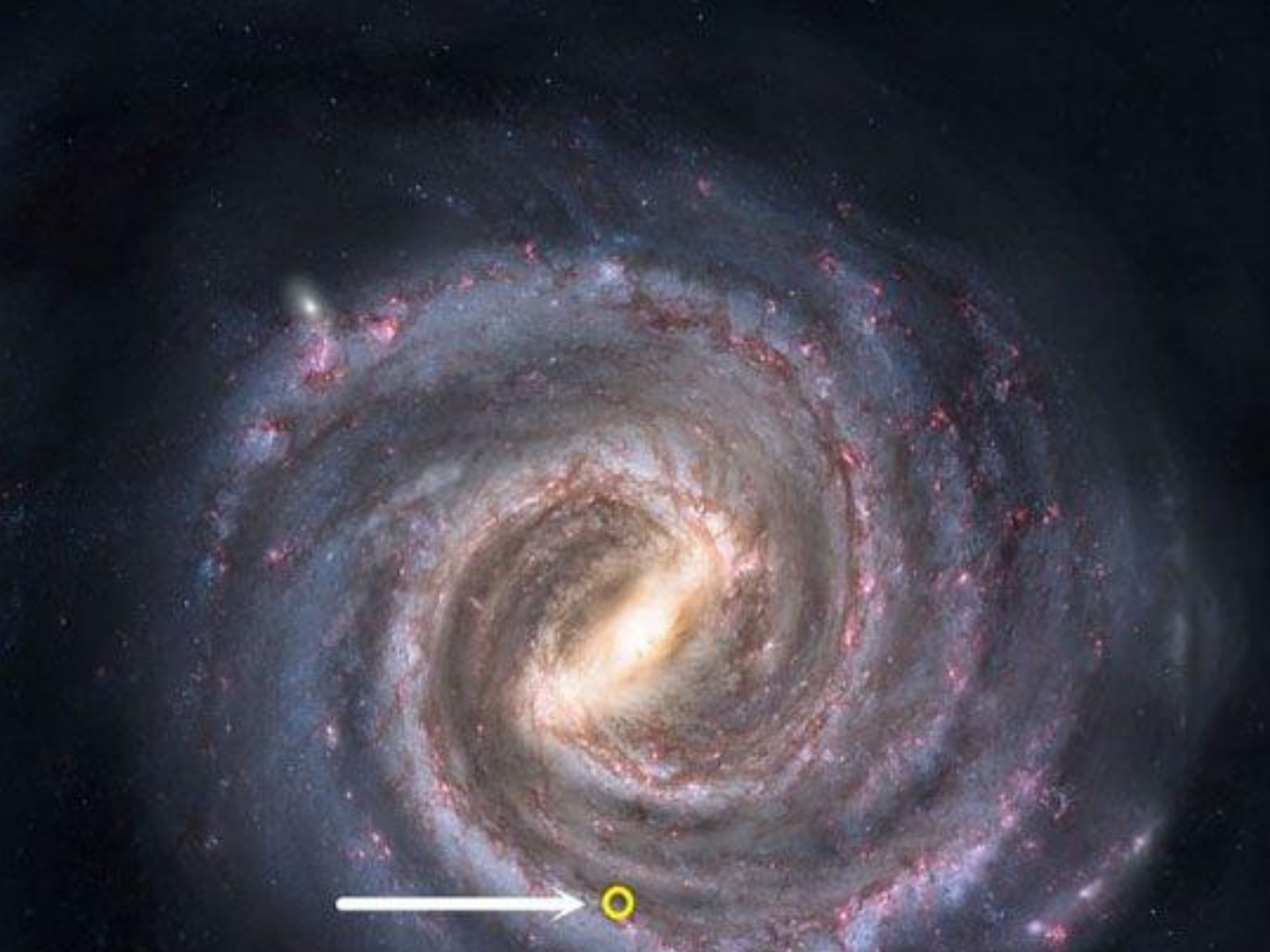
Nothing exists apart from Him.

He brought everything into being.

- Psalm 19:1 –

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.”





**All the stars you see
at night are just part
of this yellow circle.**

And Yet...

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The cosmos is
NOT His
masterpiece.



Why? Genesis 1:27

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“God created man **in**
His own image, in the
image of God He created
him; male and female He
created them.”

Augustine

“Men go abroad to wonder at the height of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the season, at the circular motion of the stars; and they pass by themselves without wondering.”



And Yet...

EPHESIANS

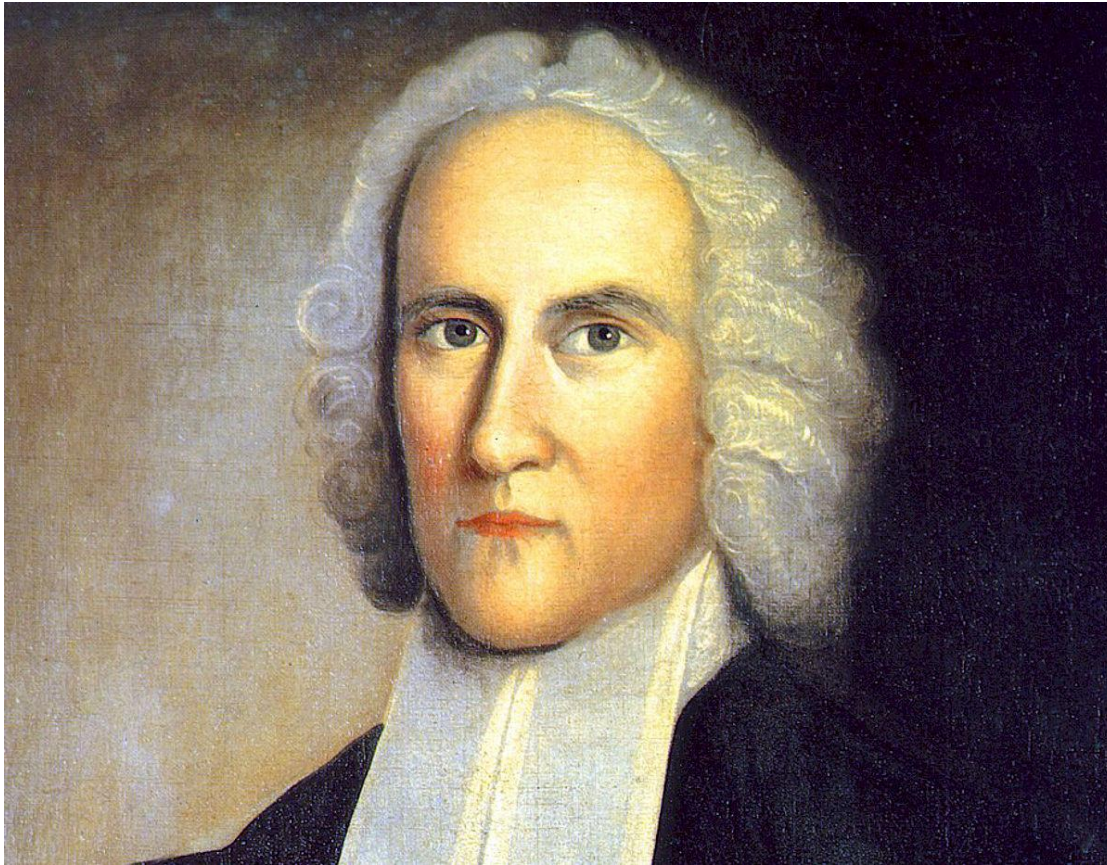
Even Man is
NOT His
masterpiece.

God's Masterpiece

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“we are His workmanship, created
in Christ Jesus”

The ultimate workmanship of God
is a human being who, despite
being dead in his trespasses and
sins, has been made alive in Christ.



Jonathan Edwards

“Spiritual life which is reached in the work of conversion is a far greater and more glorious effect than mere being and life.”

How Can We Say That? EPHESIANS

Because it involves the
unparalleled power of the
Resurrection!

God's most amazing
creation is dead men
made alive!

4 who was **declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead**, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord

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How Do You Characterize Your Conversion?

Mind-Blowing Truth

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**Dead in sin, you were
entirely unworthy.**

**Alive in Christ, you are of
untold worth.**

God is the Worker

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He has created us in Christ
Jesus.

“Created” here is *ktizō*, which describes only God’s activity and denotes something He alone can produce; this is “creation language.”

Colossians 1:16

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16 For by Him all things were **created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been **created** through Him and for Him.

For “good works”

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- Good works are not the roots from which salvation grows but the fruit God intends it to bear.
- God has not saved us because of our works (vv. 8-9), but He has saved us to do good works (v. 10).
- He is the author of creation, and now, He is the author of the new creation.



John Stott

“Good works
are
indispensable
to salvation –
not as its
ground or
means...but
as its
consequence
and
evidence.”

Turn to:

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John 15:1-8

God is Responsible

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- Romans 9:23 –

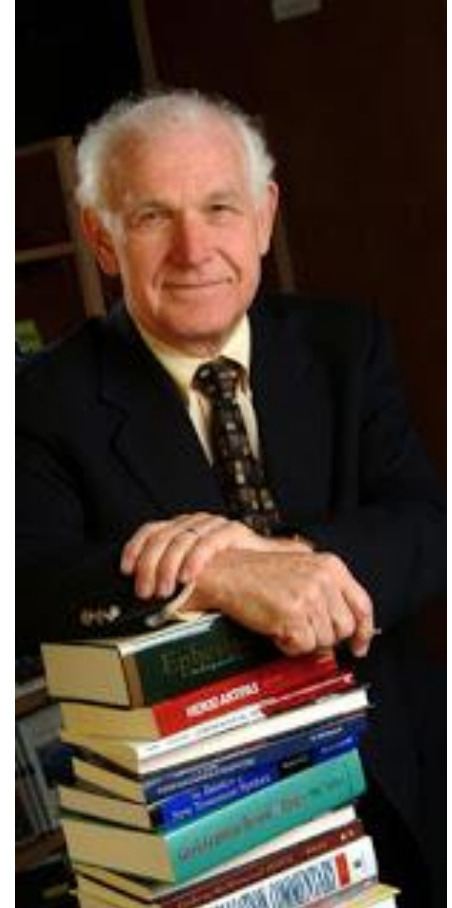
“And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory”

- Philippians 2:13 –

“for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

Harold Hoehner

“God has prepared a path of good works for believers which He will perform in and through them as they walk by faith. This does not mean doing a work for God; instead, it is God’s performing His work in and through believers”



However...

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This verse does not say that Christians will inevitably walk in the good works that God has freed us from sin's penalty and power to pursue.

The truth is that there are many professing "Christians" who do not produce good works, and there are many unbelievers who do what we would term "good works."

Obedience is Huge

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- Ephesians 4:1 –

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called”

- Titus 3:8 –

“This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.”



SALVATION

The Race Isn't Over

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- The free and gracious nature of salvation does not lead the believer to passivity or complacency.
- That is a misunderstanding of grace at best and an abuse at worst.

SALVATION



In Other Words:

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**Your Life Looks
Different In
Christ!**

Believers are Called

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To “walk” in the good works God has previously prepared for them.

- Remember 2:2 –

“you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air”

Now we walk in the goodness of Christ.

The “Pauline Paradox”^{EPHESIANS}

“All the good works in the world cannot put us right with God; but there is something radically wrong with the Christianity that does not result in good deeds.”

• William Barclay

F.F. Bruce wrote:

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“No one more wholeheartedly than Paul repudiated good works as a ground of salvation; no one more strongly insisted on good works as a fruit of salvation.”

10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

Hebrews 13:20-21

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20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,
21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Consider:

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“good works, which God prepared
beforehand”

Each of us has an eternally-designed
job description that includes the task,
the ability, and places to serve.

The Problem:

We are often unsatisfied with our given
tasks...

Oftentimes...

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• We Are Unsatisfied:

1. With Our Gifting

2. With Our Opportunities

3. With Our Location

My Question:

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Are We Doing This?

If You Are In Christ

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- You Have Been Called
- You Have Been Given Spiritual Gifts
- You Have a Responsibility to Employ Them

And in doing the works that He has called you to do, you will be more and more your true self, His workmanship.

UBER Total game-changer

UBER Total game-changer

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The Church

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A collection of people who know they are bound to Jesus Christ, live in union with Him, reflect His death and resurrection, and, conscious of their new creation by God, live productive and service-filled lives committed to the glory of God and the love of one another.

Walk This Way:

Time

Finances

Talents

Spiritual Gifts

Service

Prayer



**PLAINFIELD
BIBLE CHURCH**

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