God's Work of Art

Made Alive!

Ephesians 2:1-10

for the <u>Growing</u> Christian:

Read Ephesians 1:15-23. Paul is praying for the new Ephesian Christians as well as us that they and we might understand and appreciate the spiritual blessings God has given us.

One of those blessings is to understand our calling (v.18). Many sometimes wonder, "What does God want from my life?" To answer that read through these scriptures this week:

- 1 Corinthians 1:9 Called to Fellowship with Jesus
- 1 Peter 1:15-16 Called to Holiness
- Galatians 5:13 Called to Freedom (notice how it is to be used)
- Colossians 3:15 Called to the One Body (Church Family)
- 1 Peter 2:21 Called to Suffering (when opposed for following Christ)
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12 Called to Kingdom Citizenship

What is your favorite form of art? Painting, drawing, clay, writing a poem? Use your favorite form of art to depict some fruit, then read Ephesians 2:8-10.

Christians are described as God's "workmanship." That means they are a work of art that God made!

Being God's work of art means that God has a plan for each of us - good works for us to do! God wants Christians to behave well and be a good example to others. Read Galatians 5:22-23 & Matthew 5:14-16 for an example.

Just remember that we don't do good works to try and earn God's love. We do them because He already loves us and we love Him.

Weekly Affirmation:

I am Gods work of art!

for the Mature Christian:

Read Ephesians 1:3–14 (with an emphasis on vv.11–14). At our immersion we were "sealed" with the Holy Spirit. Paul, under the inspiration of God, says that this is a "first installment" (also: down payment, guarantee, deposit) of our inheritance in Heaven. The same Greek word is used today to refer to an engagement ring. God has gifted you the indwelling of Holy Spirit as a promise that He will follow through in bringing you to the New Creation. Better yet, you can enjoy many of the benefits now!

Read through the following scriptures that have to do with the effect your promised future has on your present life. Don't only add them to your intellectual knowledge, but prayerfully consider how to test God's Word experientially. I.e. What thoughts and actions need changing now in light of the truth that you're already a citizen of God's Kingdom?

- · Philippians 3:17-21
- · Matthew 6:19-20
- · Matthew 24:35
- · Colossians 3:1-3 (then applied in vv.5-17)
- · Revelation 21:1-8

Weekly Memory Verse:

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

Ephesians 2:10

May 2024 Growth Goals

- Read the Book of Ephesians
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses
- Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of Ephesians (available on the website).
- Invite at least one person to weekly assembly.

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