

God's Not Finished With You Yet
Being God's Workmanship
10/15/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction

- In church, we often talk about the importance of being “saved” and having a “personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”
- A lot of time is devoted to driving those points home, but when someone does get “saved,” they are often times left to figure the rest out on their own.
- It almost seems as if the church is telling people that once you get “saved” that all you have to do.
- Unfortunately, this practice within the church has caused many Christians to begin to doubt themselves after a period of time.
- This morning, I want to address the missing link in the conversation, God's Not Finished With You Yet: Being God's Workmanship.
- Yes we need to talk about salvation and having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but we also must help new believers to understand the process of Sanctification.

Philippians 1:6

⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

- This verse is a highly-quoted verse of Scripture, and it really should be.
- Paul is encouraging the Philippian church to have a sense of confidence in the fact that God is the one that began the good work in them, and He will be the one that sees it to completion.
- If you are a new believer, have some confidence this morning that God is working on you as we speak, and He finishes what He starts.
- Before we go much further in this thought, let's read what Paul wrote to the Ephesian church.

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- This passage explains to us beautifully, the process of salvation.
- **Vv. 1-3** – Before we surrendered our lives to Christ, we were dead in our sins.
- Our sinful nature was what we were slaves to and because of that we were basically following Satan.
- We were “dead” in the sense that we were on a path to destruction, but we were also not fulfilling the “good work” that God had planned for us to do.
- **Vv. 4-5** – “But!” because God loved us so much and was merciful toward us, He provided us with a chance to be resurrected from death!
- God sent His one and only Son Jesus Christ to die in our place and in doing that, He “made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions!”
- So even while we were “dead” in our sins, God still showed mercy on us and gave us a means of salvation.

- The last part of v. 5 tells us, "it is by grace you have been saved"
- The dictionary defines grace this way, the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.
- We are "saved" not because we deserve it or have earned it, but only because God Himself allowed it.
- Vv.6-7 – Not only has God provided us with a means of salvation through Jesus Christ, but He is going to raise us up and seat us with Christ in "the heavenly realms!"
- Paul says that He will do this so that, "in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."
- We will have a front-row seat to the riches that come from the grace of God almighty.
- Vv. 8-9 – Paul again clearly lays out how we are saved. If you don't understand salvation, let these verses soak in this morning: "8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9not by works, so that no one can boast."
- When you put your faith in Jesus Christ and you turn your life over to Him, you are saved.
- This is a "gift of God" which means that you can't buy it nor earn it through actions.
- Salvation is God's to give, and no one has the right but Him, to boast about it.
- V.10 – This is really the verse that I want everyone to make sure soaks in really well this morning.
- "10For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- Remember **Philippians 1:6** talking about God beginning a "good work" in us?
- This first part of v. 10 really speaks volumes, "For we are God's workmanship", or "handiwork".
- That is the Greek word, *poiēma* (poi'-ā-ma) – that which is made.
- We get the word "poem" from that Greek word.
- God has created each one of us to do "good works" that He prepared for us to do long ago.
- But God didn't just create us and then let us be, we are God's "workmanship" and He is continuously working on us, refining us day by day.
- This is what I want to encourage you with today, God's Not Finished With You Yet!
- You and I are still a work-in-progress when it comes to our holiness.
- If you look at your life right now, and you can see plainly that you are not where you need to be, do not be discouraged.
- Examine yourself and surrender to the Lord and allow Him to continue to mold you and shape you into the person that He has created you to be.
- The process of Sanctification is just that, a process. You do not become perfect and holy the day you pray to receive salvation.
- Once you have confessed with your mouth and have prayed for salvation, then sanctification begins.
- It is a process by which you must continually humble yourself before the Lord and repent of your sins.
- It is a process where you get closer to Jesus Christ and the closer that relationship gets the more you will begin to be more like Him rather than like the world.
- So maybe today you aren't perfect, that is okay, but are you striving to be holy, or have you just submitted to being imperfect?

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

The Agents of the Apocalypse

Q&A Session on Revelation

Turn in questions this morning.