

FOR GOOD WORKS

VCS CHAPEL | 08.24.18 | SPENCER STEWART

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.

Ever wonder what Lazarus' state of awareness was when he came out of the tomb?

“What happened?”

“Bro, Jesus spoke your resurrection!”

That's what Ephesians 2 is. Paul is saying, “God spoke your resurrection!”

Wednesday: Not saved by our works; we were dead in sins (no works to commend)

saved by God's works

God's work in Christ on the Cross

God's work by the Spirit making us live

“For we are his workmanship” = we (as spiritually resurrected saints)

= product of God's work

Obviously, grace.

No credit to us. Nothing to boast in. All glory to God!

“created” starts participial phrase that explains “workmanship”

– not the first time (in Adam, in sin), but the new creation “in Christ Jesus”

Everything good that we have = in Christ

“for” – in this kind of phrase, this is a huge word! Purpose

not “by” good works, but “for” good works

1 more verse on this purpose

then “why”

Titus 2:11-13 (SALT)

Because the grace of God appeared with salvation for all people, training us, in order that, having renounced impiety and worldly desires, we may live wisely and righteously and piously in the present

age, awaiting the happy hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, in order that He may ransom us from all lawlessness and may purify for Himself a special people, zealous for good works.

The end-goal of our redemption, in this sentence, is our good works.

It's basically saying Christ died to redeem you, and purify you for good works.

Not just do, but be "zealous" for good works.

Are you?

Keep asking "why?" until you get to the ultimate answer.

Are "good works" the ultimate purpose of our new creation?

Eph 2:10, "created... for good works" – why?

Jesus in Mt. 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before the people, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens."

1st creation – image forth

New Creation – image forth, shine

ultimate: for His glory

Are you that kind of person?

penultimate: for the good of others (their joy to see God's glory through you)

"I'm just a mirror."