



For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

This passage comes from Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus. In the opening line, he ties together three realities of the kingdom of God: grace, salvation, and faith. Grace is primarily from God to us as he shares goodness with us that is beyond what we deserve; faith is primarily from us to God as we trust in God to join with us in caring for our needs. Salvation is what we experience together with God as we live in relationship with him.

Hence, Paul emphasizes that salvation is not something we accomplish on our own. We do not just wake up, begin a new day and find purpose in our lives. Rather, we partner with God in a gracious, faith-based life. While our efforts or works contribute to the outcome and are necessary, God also works in us and through us to cultivate goodness.

Thus, Paul concludes that we are God’s handiwork. God works in our lives and through our lives as we partner with him in the tasks before us. God has prepared (in advance) fulfilling and meaningful life for us, and as we partner with him, we experience this life of great joy and meaningfulness.

When you reflect on your partnership with God, what stands out? Are you thankful for all that he does in you and how he cares for you? Are you troubled by the circumstances around you? Are there areas of your life where you need to show more faith or accept more grace?

PRACTICE:
Consider how salvation is found daily through grace and faith.

