

Made For More: To Be His Workmanship - Ephesians 2:10

Last week's message focused on God's generalized purpose for the life of the believer. If you recall, Paul informed us of this original plan in Romans 8:28-30. Using Paul, God revealed to those of us who love God that our main purpose in life is to allow the work of the Holy Spirit to transform us into little image bearers of His Son. From the very beginning, God wanted every person to become more than what we ended up as. God wants us to be more than sinners. More than self-centered. More than simply good people, doing good things. Therefore, the plan was always Jesus. He wants every believer to embrace this idea of being made for more. Made for more than just this life here on Earth. Made for more than just your job. Made for more than just your hobbies. Made for more than just your struggles. Every believer then, because of God's plan, is continually being transformed to reflect and project the characteristics of His Son, Jesus Christ. When we embrace this truth for our life as a believer, then we will quickly realize God's plan is to improve our life here while simultaneously preparing us for the much better life that is to come.

The first step in this transformation process involves giving the heart completely to God. Remember, Jesus said you are to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* (Mark 12:30) When I think about this command, I come to understand that the beginning of God's work in my life, and for my life, is based completely on whether I fully love God or not. Do you love Him today? Do you trust Him with your life? Is God, truly the One you love with heart, soul, mind, and strength?

If your answer to this is no or I'm not sure, I don't want you to be discouraged. Instead, I want you to simply consider the alternative. What would your life be like if it were true? What would life be like if your heart, soul, mind, and strength completely belonged to God? What would it look like to trust God? Now wait a minute preacher, I don't know if I'm ready for that. I don't if I can trust all this? I thought all I had to do was give my life to Jesus and that would be it. Unfortunately, learning to trust God, and embrace all He has in store for you is not something that happens at once just because we decide to follow Jesus. Trusting God requires us to make it a priority. We must choose to do whatever is necessary. We must choose to allow God's plan to become more important than our plans. We must believe God's original plan of giving our heart to Christ is the perfect beginning for the rest of His plan. The plan to develop each person into imitators of His Son.

If you can honestly answer this with a resounding, YES, then you need to simply allow the work God has planned for you to take place. Allow His Spirit to do massive things in your life. Allow His Spirit to do little things in your life. Allow His spirit to do good things in you, so that you then will do good things for the Kingdom.

Paul, used again by God, informs us in Ephesians 2 about the importance of trusting in the person who has saved us and trusting in the transformation that loving Him brings to our heart, soul, mind, and strength. **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.**

Paul hits us with some comparisons here. He starts by letting us know who we were before Christ, and then transitions into letting us know who we become because of Christ. In **verses 1-3** of our text, we get a picture of a lost person's life. Take note of what this includes. Dead in trespasses and sin. Something that is dead has no life in it all. And of course, Paul is referring to Spiritual life and death. How does someone end up this way? Paul says by, "*following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air,*" who is of course, Satan. He also says the lost person lives based on the passions of the flesh, chasing the desires of the body and of the mind. The lost person, the person who doesn't love God, or trust God, is subject to their nature, which as Paul teaches here, is a nature which brings wrath from God and not love.

Know this, if you are here this morning and this is how you find yourself living your life, it is not what God desires for you. God does not want you to face His wrath when you have full access to His love. What does full access bring you? Look at **verses 4-9**. You'll see things like mercy, grace, alive, saved, seated in heavenly places, and kindness. Boy does that sound good in comparison with what we looked at last week from **Revelation 21:8**. Jesus says also, as you'll find in Matthew 13, that hell will be filled with "weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, informs us that hell is very real and is eternal. Know this, God does not want this for anyone. His rescue from this is Jesus and that has been the plan from the very beginning. God made you for more!

I want to close this morning by bringing you back to God's original purpose. A purpose that saves you and then begins the work of transforming you into the image of His Son. Paul reminds us in verse 10 about the importance of this work while we are still here. We are His workmanship, created in Jesus, for the purpose of doing good things, good work. Paul says also that this has been God's plan from the start. I also want you to see another part of His purpose. It is the final portions of God's plan. It is the completion and fulness of what He genuinely wants for every person. **Read Revelation 21:1-7 and then 9-27. Read Revelation 22:1-5.**