

What Did God Design You to Do? (Ephesians 2:10)



Introduction

- "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers" (Acts 20:28).
- "One and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills" (1 Corinthians 12:11).
- "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them" (Psalm 139:13-16).
- "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5).
- "The Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.'" (Acts 9:15-16).
- Psalm 115:3; Ephesians 1:4; Proverbs 16:9; Genesis 50:20.
- "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

"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).

1. The Predetermined _____ (v. 10a)

“For we are His workmanship . . .”

- “The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).
- “Man’s steps are ordained by the Lord” (Proverbs 20:24b).
- “Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?” (Lamentations 3:37).
- “We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).
- “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- “. . . overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

2. The Present _____ (v. 10b)

“. . . created in Christ Jesus for good works. . .”

- “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth” (Colossians 1:16).
- “. . . have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him” (Colossians 3:10).
- “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation” (Galatians 6:15).
- “. . . who gave Himself for us to redeem us . . . a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds” (Titus 2:14).
- “. . . and I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:18b).

Theologian William Arp said, “Their works did not cause their salvation, but their salvation ‘causes works.’”

Martin Luther said, “Good works do not make a man good, but a good man will do good works.”

3. The Prearranged _____ (v. 10c)

“... which God prepared beforehand...”

- “And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory” (Romans 9:23).
- “... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him” (Ephesians 1:4).

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4. The Predestined _____ (v. 10d)

“... so that we would walk in them.”

- “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13).

Conclusion

1. God has a _____ plan for your life.
2. Your greatest happiness in life will be to live out your _____ good deeds.
3. Discipleship, parenting, and training must not lose _____ of God’s sovereign plan.
4. You are saved by grace _____ good works.
“Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26b).

Application

1. What difference should knowing you are God's workmanship make in your everyday life?
2. Why is it that so many church attenders don't seem to embrace the truth that they were saved in order to live out good works?
3. Why is it important that God is sovereign over your salvation and over your sanctification?
4. What difference should knowing that a child or disciple has a sovereign purpose make in how you disciple them?
5. How does God's sovereignty and man's responsibility work out practically for each believer in doing good works?
6. Since those good works you are predestined to live out involve more than your spiritual gifts, what else do they involve?
7. What steps can any believer take this month and this year to determine their sovereign calling?
8. What steps will you personally take this month and this year to determine what are those predetermined good works for you?

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