

## **SESSION 2: SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMED**

### **Passage: Ephesians 2:8-10**

*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.*

Key Idea: **Salvation is free by God's grace.**

### **By grace you have been saved**

Salvation is offered to each of us by God, by God's love for us, despite our sinfulness and unworthiness. It is received not by our actions, but purely by faith of the person in the work of Jesus Christ: His life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

### **Romans 3:23-24**

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Are there areas in your life where you struggle to fully grasp the concept of salvation by grace through faith? How can you seek greater understanding and acceptance of this truth?
2. Share a specific way in which you can demonstrate gratitude to God for His free gift of salvation.
3. Are there any areas of your life where you have been tempted to rely on your own efforts for favor with God? How can you shift your focus back to God's grace?
4. Identify a good work that you believe God has prepared for you to do. How will you take steps to fulfill this purpose?
5. In what practical ways can we actively seek to fulfill the purposes God has designed for us in terms of good works?

Key Idea: **Salvation is not based on our works**

### **Not by works, so that no one can boast**

Salvation is not through anything we have done, can do, or will ever do. Instead our salvation frees us from the burden of work to respond to God's love as a gift that displays His character, mercy, and grace to all.

**Titus 3:4-5**

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit*

Key Idea: **Salvation should lead us to serve.**

**To do good works**

**Ephesians 2:10**

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Salvation should lead us to serve wholeheartedly, out of gratitude for what God has done for us, as well as it being an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we have not been saved by our works, but we have been saved by grace so that out of the overflow of our heart our response to God is our service.

**2 Timothy 1:9-10**

*He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, **10** but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Discuss the importance of prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit in discerning and fulfilling God's purpose for your life.
2. Are there any specific acts of service or good works that your small group can undertake together to impact your community positively?

3. Consider the people in your life who need to hear about God's grace and salvation. How can you share this message with them in a loving and compelling way?

### **Going deeper into God's Word:**

1. Meditate on the relationship between God's grace and our sanctification process. How does understanding grace lead to a more transformed life?
2. Read and meditate on 2 Timothy 2:20-21: how can this be applied to our spiritual walk?

### **Leadership Resources:**

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/ephesians-2/>

<https://www.thingsofthesort.com/sermons-2/2018/3/26/ephesians-28-10-how-we-are-saved>

### **Additional Questions for Consideration:**

1. According to Ephesians 2:8-10, what is the relationship between grace, faith, and salvation? How does this understanding impact our perspective on salvation?
2. In verse 8, it says that we are saved "through faith." Discuss the significance of faith as the means of receiving God's grace and salvation.
3. How does the concept of salvation as a "gift of God" (verse 8) challenge common misconceptions about earning or deserving our salvation?
4. Share personal experiences or testimonies of how God's grace and salvation have transformed your life.
5. In verse 10, Paul talks about us being God's workmanship, created for good works. Discuss the balance between God's work in us and our responsibility to live out good works.
6. How can we ensure that our good works flow from a place of gratitude and love for God, rather than trying to earn or maintain our salvation?
7. Explore the idea of predestined good works mentioned in verse 10. How does God's plan for our lives intersect with our free will and choices?

8. Discuss the relationship between faith, grace, and obedience. How do they work together in the life of a believer?
9. How can we guard against legalism or a performance-based mindset in our Christian walk, given the clear message of grace in these verses?
10. Reflect on the phrase "created in Christ Jesus for good works." What does it mean to be "in Christ" and how does this identity impact our ability to do good works?
11. How can we encourage and support one another in living out a lifestyle of good works and obedience, all rooted in God's grace and love?
12. How will you personally apply the truth of Ephesians 2:8-10 in your daily life and interactions with others?
13. Reflect on your journey of salvation. How has God's grace been evident in your life from the beginning until now?
14. Discuss with the group how you can create a culture within your small group that emphasizes grace, faith, and good works in balance.
15. Reflect on the times when you may have taken credit for your good works instead of giving glory to God. How can you redirect the focus back to Him?
16. Share a recent experience where you felt God leading you to a good work or act of kindness. How did you respond, and what did you learn from it?
17. As a group, commit to holding each other accountable in living out a life of grace and good works, continually reminding one another of God's love and purpose for your lives.