

*Ephesians*

# The Bad News

**The Bad News  
+ The Good News**

**The Bad News**  
**+ The Good News**  
**+ The Great News**

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**The Gospel**

# THE BAD NEWS

## Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

# THE GOOD NEWS

## Ephesians 2:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

# THE GREAT NEWS

## Ephesians 2:8-10

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



**Grace is Grace.  
Gifts are Gifts.**

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

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## **Ephesians 2:4-5**

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**Faith is the Instrument, but not the source.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

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“by grace” and “by faith” are inseparable companions which together provide the antithesis to any suggestion of human merit. God’s act of grace is the ground of salvation and faith is the means by which it becomes effective in a person’s life... Faith involves the abandonment of any attempt to justify oneself and an openness to God which is willing to accept what he has done in Christ. The same applies here in regard to salvation. Faith is a human activity but a specific kind of activity, a response which allows salvation to become operative, which receives what has already been accomplished by God in Christ.

**It is NOT about YOU!!**

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

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## Romans 3:19-28

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

## Romans 3:19-28

<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – <sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.



## Romans 3:19-28

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. <sup>28</sup>For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.



**Self-Absorbed**



**Self-Absorbed**



**Self-Ruled**

It is ever the Holy Spirit's work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan's work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ. He insinuates, 'Your sins are too great for pardon; you have no faith; you do not repent enough; you will never be able to continue to the end; you have not the joy of his children; you have such a wavering hold of Jesus.' All these are thoughts about self, and we shall never find comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self: he tells us that we are nothing, but that 'Christ is all in all.' Remember, therefore, it is not your hold of Christ that saves you — it is Christ; it is not your joy in Christ that saves you — it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument —

it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to your hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as to Christ; **look not to your hope, but to Jesus, the source of your hope; look not to your faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith.** We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by "looking unto Jesus." Keep thine eye simply on him; let his death, his sufferings, his merits, his glories, his intercession, be fresh upon your mind; when you wake in the morning look to him; when you lie down at night look to him. Oh! let not your hopes or fears come between you and Jesus; follow hard after him, and he will never fail you.

~ Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), Look to Christ, Not to Self, from: *Morning and Evening*, Morning devotion for June 28.

Found at <https://www.monergism.com/look-christ-not-self-c-h-spurgeon>

# We are God's masterpiece!

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**Mike Evans**

January 22 · 🌐



Someone's showing off.



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13 Comments 1 Share

# THE GOOD NEWS

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## Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup>he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. <sup>11</sup>In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup>in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.



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The word “workmanship” comes from the Greek word *poiema*, from which we derive our English word *poem*. The Greek literally means, “that which has been made — a work — a making,” and sometimes it is even translated as “poem” ... [as] the Greek *poiema* meant any work of art... It could mean a statue or a song or architecture or a poem or a painting. The best translation by far is that given by F. F. Bruce: “his work of art, his masterpiece.” *We are God’s works of art*. I do not think there is any more exalted description of a believer in all of Scripture. You and I are God’s works of art — his masterpieces!

# Created in Christ to do good works

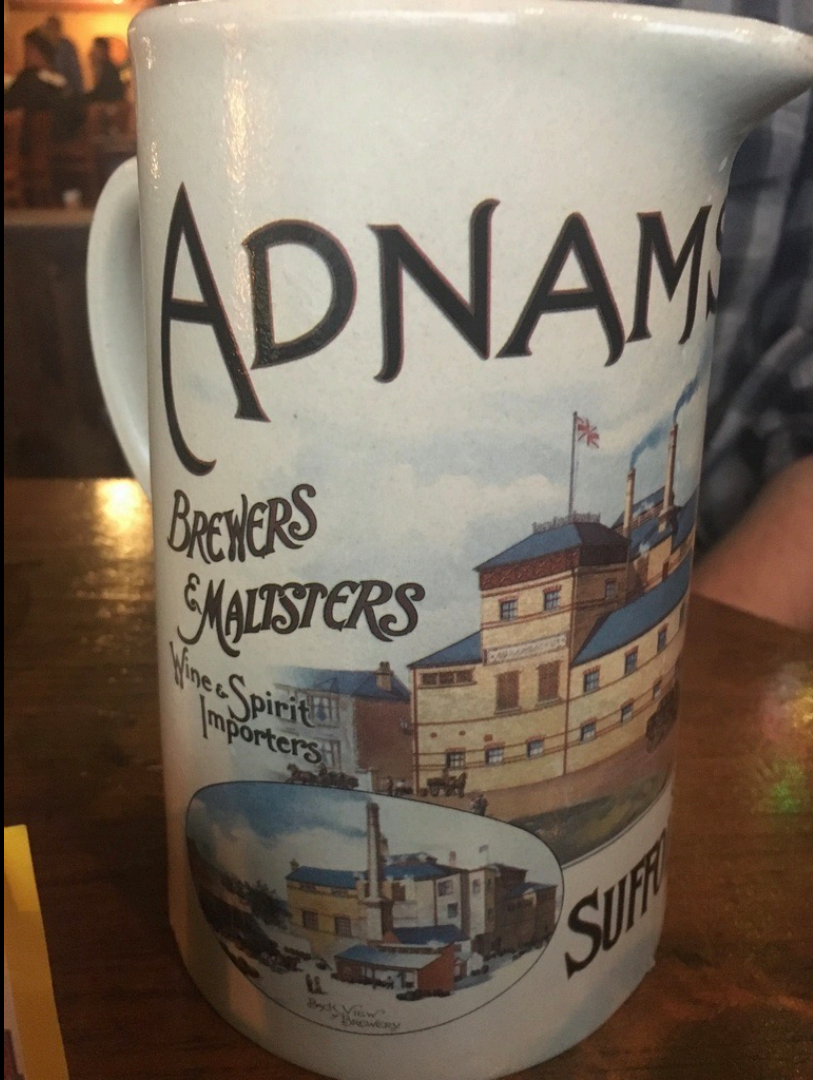
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**We are God's  
workmanship,  
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**- Ephesians 2:10 -**





# Olivia Disselkamp's Translation

## Ephesians 2:8-10 and back to 2:8-9

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# Gospel-Centered Application:

*Thank you!*