

Week 10

You Are God's Masterpiece

Ephesians 2:8-10

Bethany Lay

I was an AWANA kid. If you don't know what AWANA is, let me explain. It is like a Christian Girl Scouts with the primary focus being Scripture memory. Ephesians 2:8-9 were some of the first verses that we learned in AWANA...and I am so glad! These verses are rich with truth.

While I learned them when I was a kid, I continue to see deeper and deeper truths in these words.

I learned, then, that salvation is a gift from God. He has given us His grace, and none of us can take credit for salvation. My young brain could process this because I knew what it was to be given a gift. (Even if I did have to be good for Santa to bring those gifts at Christmas.)

But as I grew in my faith, I realized the depth of this gift. God did not just give me salvation. He gave me the faith needed to accept that salvation. Apart from Him, I was and am totally incapable of doing ANYTHING that would result in this gift. Whether you believe that man has a free will or not, this verse is clear that we are saved by grace through faith, and that faith is not even from our own power.

I like how the NLT translates verses 9 and 10. Look first at verse 9. "Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done..." My Bible teachers always focused on the next phrase, "...so none of us can boast about it." I think my tendency is not toward that last phrase, but toward the first. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done. God is *not* like Santa Claus. We are not justified because of good works. We are not sanctified because of good works, and we will not be glorified because of good works. Justification, sanctification and glorification are all part of salvation. I can accept being justified as a gift, but I often get lost in the sanctification process thinking that my good works merit something. But they don't. Salvation...NONE OF IT...is a reward for good things I have done!

Then verse 10. We are God's masterpiece!

We. Are. God's. Masterpiece.

He created us so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. Do you hear that? You were created to do good things. Today. Tomorrow. Next week. Next Month. Next year. You are valuable.

YOU. Are. God's. Masterpiece.

And what better way to show us that we are His masterpiece than to give us *everything* we need for salvation. Our God is so good!

QUESTION: Make a list. What "good things" has God done through you?

WALK IT OUT: The next time you feel worthless or hopeless, say these words out loud, and remember that they are truth directly and precisely from the Bible. "I am God's masterpiece!"

PRAYER: Dear God, I am overwhelmed that You would call me a masterpiece. There is rarely a day...maybe even never a day...when I get out of bed and think of myself that way. But it is truth. Please help me to reject the lies of the Enemy that would ascribe any less worth than this to me.