

## 9-9-2026 – We Are God’s Masterpiece

What is a masterpiece? An exceptional artistic creation that combines flawless technical skill, deep emotional resonance, and a lasting cultural impact that transcends its original time.

For an artist – it’s said to be the greatest work of his/her Career.

Technical excellence alone isn’t enough. Masterpieces engage our minds & hearts; makes us feel something: wonder, sorrow, awe, joy.

Momentary acclaim, but **time** will tell if it’s a Masterpiece.

**Ephesians 2** – “Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. <sup>2</sup>You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup>All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup>But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup>that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us **life** when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup>For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>So God can point to us in all future ages as **examples** of the incredible **wealth** of his **grace and kindness** toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup>Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup>**For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”**

Masterpiece is in a passage that describes how we are alive. . . God’s grace.

[Berean Standard Bible](#) – “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.”

### Focus on Five Principles:

#### 1 - For we are God’s workmanship (“masterpiece”)

- We are the **deliberate work** of God’s hands, formed according to His wise purpose.
  - God’s creation is personal, purposeful, & perfectly wonderful!  
[Psalm 139:13-14](#) – “For You formed my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. / I praise You, for I am fearfully & wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well.”
- We are knitted w/ everything we need . . . every stich placed for reason b/c nothing that happens is a surprise to God.
- As God’s masterpiece, we’re crafted w/ care & purpose. We each have value & a unique identity rooted in God’s creative work. All things do!
  - A litter of cats/dogs . . . each have own personality. So do we!

#### 2 – Created Anew in Christ Jesus

- God created us in His image; we alone were given the **breath of life**.
  - [Genesis 2:7](#) in the Bible, which says: *"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being"*
  - But God wants us to be more alive, to live w/ meaning & purpose
- As Christians/believers – we have the gift of 3 kinds of life:
  - Gift of human life – then a new spiritual life – eternal life.
    - We’ve been **raised** from **dead** in the Spiritual life. Born again. A new creation made alive again by God’s grace & love.

- [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) says, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” **NLT** – “The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
- Life-changing Insight: God is real. God created me. God created me w/ His breath, joined in Jesus Christ.
- [Colossians 1:16](#) – “For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- Why was I born? For Him. For God. For a purpose.
  - That gift is not a coincidence; there for God’s purpose.
    - That ability is not an accident; there to shine.

### 3 - to do good works,

- Everything placed in us is for a reason – to do good works/good things.
  - What is Good? Positive. Desirable. Beneficial. Satisfying.
    - What we do benefits others in a way that satisfies ourselves
      - Not coincidence that we enjoy certain things, dislike doing others. **Joy matches our gifts.**
    - The **joy** we have in **doing certain things** – being creative, cooking, fixing things, solving problems, organizing, writing, sewing, singing, playing . . . **enables us to do GOOD works**
    - **Lasting Joy** comes in **connecting** our **passion w/ other people**
- Good deeds won’t earn salvation; that’s received by grace through faith.
- But - our works are evidence of a life transformed by Christ.
  - Our works are the “fruit of faith” – fruit produced by obedience, love for others, service, holiness, & a growing likeness to Jesus.
    - **NLT – James 2:18** – “Now someone may argue, ‘Some people have faith; others have good deeds.’ But I say, ‘How can you

show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.'"

- [Matt. 7:16](#) – Jesus said we'll be recognized by our fruit. "Every good tree bears good fruit . . . A good tree cannot bear bad fruit"
- [Matthew 12:33](#) – "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good..."
  - **God has made your tree good.** God looked at His creation and said, "It is good." You are God's creation. You are good. Then Jesus cleansed us, purified us.
  - [Christian Std Bible - Titus 2:14](#) – "He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works."
- Connected to Jesus . . . our good deeds (what we love) bears fruit.
  - [NIV – John 15:5](#) – "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

#### 4 – which God prepared in advance

- B/c God created us w/ a purpose; He ordained meaningful service 4 us.
- He has opportunities for us to serve Him thru our abilities ... pre-ordained moments when we serve God by using our gifts for Him.
  - We glorify God when we bless others by being ourselves . . . doing what we do . . . just fully living the life you are given!
- Jesus told disciples – "You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit . . ." - [John 15:16](#)
  - **It's the same** with us. We've been chosen. Gifted. Appointed.
  - [1 Pet. 2:9](#) - "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light"
- **Chosen.** Not an accident. Purposeful. Life for a reason.

[2Tim 1:9](#) – “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.”

## 5 – as our way of life.

Good deeds should mark the course of a Christian’s life, not isolated moments of religious effort.

- **In a world opposed to God, faithfully using our gifts & abilities in obedience to God bears witness to the life-changing power of the gospel and directs attention to the Father.**
- [Isaiah 64:8](#) – “O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are the potter; we are all the work of Your hand.”
- God has masterfully shaped our clay, designed for a purpose . . . designed **not for our glory** but to point others to Him.

Why was I born? To know God. To praise & glorify God in how I live.

[Colossians 1:16](#) – “For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him.

## We are each God’s masterpiece.

**Designed to shine** . . . a piece of God’s amazing plan.

A plan that includes moments where our good deeds make a difference.

- Recall: a “masterpiece” is an exceptional artistic creation that has deep emotional resonance, and a lasting cultural impact ...”
  - Our lives are intended to emotionally connect . . . lasting impact.

Know this: **A masterpiece is incredible, but not perfect. Has flaws.**

We don’t have to be perfect . . . just be you. You were designed w/all [Hebrews 10:24](#) - And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds.” We need to encourage each other. Live a little! Be yourself!