

Ephesians 2:10

The great objection to the biblical teaching of justification by faith alone (the doctrine clearly taught by Paul in v. 8-9) is refuted in today's verse. The question is relatively simple and logical, if we are saved by grace alone, not by works so that no one can boast, why do Christians teach the law and talk about obedience to Christ? Stated differently, if Jesus has done it all to secure and apply our salvation, why do we need to worry about any kind of action? Today's text shows us that we are saved by grace through faith and, therefore, not because of our works for the purpose of good works. In other words, we are saved by grace in order to live righteously.

1. Our purpose

- a. Notice here that Paul says we were "created for good works"
 - i. The identity of the "we" is important here
 - ii. Paul is not talking about every mortal, if he were, then he would be required to teach either universalism or works based salvation
 1. Obviously, based on v. 8-9, Paul doesn't believe we earn our salvation by our works
 2. Also, based on the stated audience of the book (believers in Ephesus), Paul is clearly talking to the believers in the church
 - iii. This means that the "we" must be understood as disciples of Christ
- b. The point that Paul is making here is that Christians are created for good works
- c. Why? The biblical answer is multi-faceted
 - i. First, we are called to good works as a necessary result of our salvation
 1. Those who have been saved by grace alone are given sight and once we see, we clearly recognize the Lordship of Christ
 2. If a person claims to be saved by Christ, they are claiming that they have been born again and this means that they are asserting a new, spiritual life grounded in Christ's act of salvation
 3. This has immense implications, the first of them is that those who are saved by Christ confess Christ as their Savior AND Lord and Lordship entails obedience
 4. If you are a believer today, you believe in the exalted Savior (He is at the right hand of the Father as we have already learned in Ephesians) and this means you are called to obey Him
 - ii. Second, we are saved for God's glory!
 1. God has saved us so that He would gain glory and part of the way He gains glory is through our good works
 2. Catch this, you can't earn your salvation but you can walk in gratitude because of your salvation
 3. If you are not full of the desire to joyfully follow the One who brought you from death to life, you must sincerely ask whether you know Him at all

- a. I believe that last statement provides a great explanation for Paul's words at the end of the verse when he says we "should walk in them (good deeds)."
- b. Where does the "should" come from? The answer is salvation!
- c. Jesus has saved us by grace, our allegiance follows quite logically
- d. We "should" obey the One who laid down His life for us
- e. We "should" obey the One who has demonstrated His authority over all things
- f. We "should" obey the God that we claim

2. Echoes of Sovereignty

- a. Notice that even this passage alludes to the Sovereignty of God as Paul says these words were "prepared beforehand". By who?
 - i. The obvious answer is God Himself!
 - ii. God did not only ordain our salvation, God ordained our good deeds as a product and consequence of our salvation!
 - iii. Even here, God is the catalyst
 - iv. He ordained our good deeds
 - v. He makes possible our good deeds by giving us life
 - vi. He commands our good deeds in His Word
 - vii. He receives glory from our good deeds
- b. A few weeks ago, I was driving down the road and I saw an infamous bumper sticker (infamous in my mind at least). I've seen the same statement many times and each time I wonder if the person driving has ever read the Bible. The sticker said, "Jesus is my co-pilot"
 - i. No, dear friend, Jesus is not a co-pilot
 - 1. Jesus built the plane
 - 2. He created the passengers (including you)
 - 3. He flies the plane
 - 4. He plans the journey
 - 5. He will land the plane in glory
 - ii. From start to finish, Jesus is the initiator, Savior, Lord and Master
- c. Folks, if you walk away from this portion of Scripture with the idea that you somehow are the pilot of your life with Christ, I would strongly encourage you to go back and trace Paul's logic from start to finish here... God ordained redemption, He accomplished redemption and He planned the lives of the redeemed