

God' Starting Lineup

Ephesians 2:10

June 3, 2018

Basketball = 5 starters

Baseball = 9 starters

Lacrosse = 10

Soccer, Hockey & Football = 11

Mark Twain “The two most important days of our life is the day we were born and the day we realize why.”

It was said that one day **Napoleon** printed out a map of China and said, “There lies a sleeping giant. If it ever wakes up it will shake the world.”

Here, at **Gateway Baptist Church**, there is a sleeping giant. If everyone who comes here served here, what kind of enormous, spiritual nuclear reaction would we see in our community, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, and the world?

Talk to any athlete and they will tell you they hate sitting on the bench!

As a coach I would tell every player on the team to make me play you!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Big Idea: You are God's masterpiece by which He desires to **express Himself through you!**

I. **You are now on God's Team (10)** For **we**

A. We are Family Ephesians 2:19

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household...

B. We are Royalty (1 Peter 2:9) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives...

II. You are Talented (10) For we are his workmanship

Workmanship **ποίημα** poiema = Poem

Meaning: that which has been made, workmanship, Masterpiece.

Became known as an Authors greatest work. His crowning achievement.

As a believer you are the masterpiece of God. His crowning achievement.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of

the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Nobody writes a masterpiece and puts it on the shelf for no one to see.

If you are a true believer then you are God's love letter to the lost! He has written His love in you so that His love can be seen in you by everyone who knows you. His love should always be on display in us. We should always strive to show the fruit that is already within us. The Talent that all Christians have been blessed with is The Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Matthew 7:20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

III. You have been Transformed (10) For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Conformed can also mean to Imitate.

Transformed literally means "Metamorphosis"

Caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

We are to undergo A Complete Change!

No Change – No Jesus; No Jesus – No

IV. **You can discover you're anointed Task (10)**
which God prepared beforehand,

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

V. **You must determine to Take-up You're Task (10)** that we should walk in them.

Walk = Conduct ourselves, progress, regulate one's life

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

A. **Lay Something Down (24)** let him deny himself

This phrase literally means, "*to completely disown, to utterly separate oneself from someone.*"

B. **Lift Something Up (24)** and take up his cross

When Jesus says that we are to take up our cross, He is saying that we are to live as dead men! You see, to take up one's cross was to start upon a "*death march*". Their walk under that cross always ended up with them on that cross. They began a process from which there was no retreating and no turning back. To take up your cross was to embrace the death of self!

C. **Live Something Out** (24) and **follow me**

We are called upon to take up that cross, once for all, and go after Jesus. We are not to back out, turn around, or lay down the cross. We are to die on that cross, giving our all for His glory!

If you want to be saved, you can be, but there's only one way that will ever happen. That is through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. God is inflexible and firm on that point. In fact, He has stated it this way, **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Everybody Somebody Anybody And Nobody

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done

We are Saved to Serve