



“How Dead Men Become a Masterpiece”

April 5, 2026 – Resurrection Sunday | Text: Ephesians 2:8-10

[8] 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. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

I. By Grace: The Source of It All (v.8a)

“Grace is love freely shown toward guilty sinners, contrary to their merit, and indeed in defiance of their demerit.” - J.I. Packer

II. Through Faith: The Instrument, Not the Cause (v.8b)

Three distinctions:

Source = Grace alone: originates entirely in God

Ground = Christ alone: His death atones; His righteousness justifies

Instrument = Faith alone: the means by which salvation in Christ becomes yours

“Faith is a whole-souled movement of self-commitment to Christ for salvation from sin and its consequences.” - John Murray

III. Not of Yourselves: The Gift of the Fork (v.8c)

Acts 18:27: *those who had believed through grace*

Philippians 1:29: *it has been granted to you to believe*

Hebrews 12:2: *Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*

IV. So That No One May Boast: The Diagnostic (v.9)

Romans 3:27: *Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.*

Romans 11:36: *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.*

The boasting test: Does the way you think about how you became a Christian give you any grounds for pride? If it does, something is wrong.

V. His Workmanship: God's Masterpiece, Raised to Walk (v.10)

Poiēma: “his work of art, his masterpiece” (F.F. Bruce)

“The spiritual life reached in the work of conversion is a far greater and more glorious effect than mere being and life.” - Jonathan Edwards

1 Peter 1:3: *God has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

If you were to share a key insight from today's sermon with a friend, what would you say in a sentence or two?

Application Questions: What is grace? How do faith and repentance go together? Does your view of how you became a Christian leave you with anything to boast about, even quietly? What does it mean practically that your faith was also a gift? You are God's masterpiece, in process, not abandoned. Where do you need to trust the Sculptor this week? God prepared good works for you before you were born. Are you walking in them, or are you walking in something else?

Next week's sermon text: Ephesians 2:11-13

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