

GOD'S MASTERPIECE
MAY 1, 2016

EPH. 2:10 (NLT)

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the things HE planned for us long ago.”

INTRODUCTION: Ephesians is a beautiful book with a powerful message. It tells us who we were before Christ, what God did for us in Christ, who we are in Christ, and what God expects us to do for Him now that we’ve been saved.

- Masterpiece: One’s greatest piece of work. A consummate example of skill or excellence.
 - Handiwork – **PS. 19:1** – Work done by hand.
1. Who we were before Christ. **EPH. 2:1-3 (NLT)**
 - A. Walking dead men. – **1 TIM. 5:6**
 - Dead to God, holiness, godliness, truth and moral purity.
 - B. Influenced by the prince of the power of the air.
 - **EPH. 4:17-19** – Destitute of the knowledge of God, fear of God, grace of God, mercy of God, love of God and Christ.
 - We lived sinful lives like the rest of the world.
 - C. Without Christ, having no hope and without God.
 - **EPH. 2:12** – They were dead in sin, and had no promise of a Messiah, Redeemer, or way back to God.
 - D. Children of Wrath.
 - **EPH. 2:3** – Corrupt in nature and practices and children of perdition. Bad trees producing bad fruit.
 - Paul before Christ was a religious zealot who persecuted Christians!
 2. What God did for us in Christ. **EPH. 2:4-7**
 - A. Loved us.
 - B. Made us alive.
 - C. Raised us up.
 - D. Seated us.
 - E. Blessed us. – **EPH 1:3**
 - F. Chose us. – **EPH. 1:4**
 - G. Adopted us. – **EPH. 1:5**
 - H. Accepted us. – **EPH. 1:6**
 - I. Redeemed and forgave us. – **EPH. 1:7**
 3. Who we are in Christ. **EPH. 2:10 (NLT)**
 - A. His masterpiece. His greatest piece of work. The statue of David by Michelangelo, created from one block of ruined marble was considered the masterpiece that established him as one of the greatest sculptors of all times.
 - B. We are God’s new creation. A new species that never before existed. **2 COR. 5:17-18**
 - Created not with hands but with His life. **ROM 5:10**
 - Don’t say we’re not important, valuable or special.
 - Don’t say I’m unworthy or just a sinner saved by grace.
 - C. We are ambassadors representing the government of Heaven. **2 COR. 5:20**
 - D. We are the righteousness of God in Christ. **2 COR. 5:21**
 - E. Sons of God. **1 JOHN 3:1-3**
 4. What He expects of us. – **EPH. 4:22-24**
 - A. Put off the old man and put on the new man by renewing our mind to the way God would have us live our lives.
 - B. Imitate God by walking in love. **EPH. 5:1-2**