

What We Teach

SALVATION

Regeneration

Genuine regeneration is manifested by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works are the proper evidence and fruit of regeneration ([1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#)), and will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God ([Ephesians 5:17-21](#); [Philippians 2:12b](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:4-10](#)).

(Ephesians 2:10) Salvation— Works, God— New Man: you are God’s workmanship [product] (*poiēma*).

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship [product], created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Note two points.

1. We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. The believer experiences two creations, both a natural birth and a spiritual birth. The spiritual birth is the point of this verse. When a man believes in Jesus Christ, God *creates him in Christ*.

What does this mean?

⇒ It means that God *quicken the spirit* of the believer and makes his spirit alive. Whereas the believer’s spirit was dead to God, God creates it anew and makes it alive to God.

Ephesians 2:1 (NASB)

¹ “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.”

Ephesians 2:5 (NASB)

⁵ “Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

⇒ It means that God causes the believer to be *born again spiritually*.

John 3:3 (NASB)

³ “Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:5-6 (NASB)

⁵ “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

⁶“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

1 Peter 1:23 (NASB)

²³“For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.”

1 John 5:1 (NASB)

¹“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.”

⇒ It means that God actually places His *divine nature* into the heart of the believer.

2 Peter 1:4 (NASB)

⁴“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

⇒ It means that God actually makes a *new creature* of the believer.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

Galatians 6:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”

⇒ It means that God actually creates a *new man* out of the believer.

Ephesians 4:24 (NASB)

²⁴“And put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Colossians 3:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

⇒ It means that God *renews the believer* by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5 (NASB)

⁵“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

2. We are created to do good works. God saves man *for good works* not by good works. F.F. Bruce points out that the believer is God’s “workmanship” [product] (*poiēma*), God’s work of art, God’s masterpiece (*The Epistle to the Ephesians*, p.52).

God fashions man and creates a masterpiece. God’s workmanship is always a work of art. The believer does not create the beauty, the art that shows in the canvas of his life. The believer just shows that he is God’s workmanship by the life he lives and displays. Works are an evidence of

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salvation. Those who walk in trespasses and sins ([Ephesians 2:1-2](#)) show that they are not God's workmanship no matter what profession they make. God's people give ample evidence of the *power of a new life* which operates in them.

Note that God has *ordained* us to walk in good works. Doing good works is not an option for the believer; it is the very nature of the believer. If a man has been created in Christ—if God has truly worked in him—the man does good works. His very nature dictates it. He cannot do otherwise. He is not perfect, and he fails; but he keeps coming back to God and falling upon his knees, believing and asking forgiveness, and getting back up and going forth once again to do all the good he can. As stated, it is his nature. He is a new creature created to do good works. Therefore, he does them. Just like a tree, he bears the fruit of his nature.

[Matthew 5:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

[Colossians 1:10 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰“So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

[1 Timothy 6:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸“*Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.”

[Titus 2:7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷“In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified.”

[Titus 3:8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.”

[Hebrews 10:24 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁴“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.”

[James 2:17-18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁷“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

[1 Peter 2:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

[1 John 1:7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷“But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”