



-- Video – “Me Church”

- Too often, churchgoers are like that. They are more interested in “*serve us* than *service.*”
- But you and I have been created to add to life, not just take from it.
- More to the point, you and I have been saved to serve.
- Read Ephesians 2:1-10
- Pray

1.) God saves us to serve.

- At first glance, doesn't it seem like this passage should really end at verse 9?
- The progression of Ephesians 2:1-10:
 - From objects of wrath to masterpieces of God's mercy.
 - The apex of this magnificent passage is verse 10.
 - v. 10 (NLT) – “*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*”
 - To comprehend the astounding power of verse 10, we need to look at two other verses in Ephesians.
- Ephesians 1:23 – As the church of Jesus Christ, we are “*the fullness of [Jesus Christ], who fills everything in every way.*”
 - Christ fills all things by asserting his authority over all things to make Himself known in all things.
 - This fullness with which Christ fills all things is the church, the body of Christ.

- When God saves us through Jesus Christ, He miraculously transforms us from objects of His wrath to masterpieces of His mercy, and He unites us as the body of Christ.
- As the body of Christ, God calls us together be the *“fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.”* That is, God calls us to be the hands, feet, and voices of Jesus Christ on earth.
- This calling—to be used of God as the fullness of Christ on earth—is the essence of verse 10, where Paul writes, *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*
- These *“good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do,”* are the effects of God’s grace at work in us, empowering us to serve Him as representatives of Jesus Christ.

2.) God is glorified in our service to Him.

- Ephesians 3:10 – *“[God’s] intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.”*
- God is making His wisdom known everywhere, especially to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.
 - Not even the place of demons will be left without a revelation of the glory of Christ, who is the wisdom of God.
- This revelation to unseen powers and authorities is happening *“through the church.”*
 - In essence, God aims to fill the universe with the glory His Son, by making the church the showcase of Christ’s perfections.
 - In other words, God means to fill the universe with the glory of His Son by putting the church on display as the embodiment of His Son.
 - No other purpose of life can remotely compare to this marvelous, matchless purpose!
 - Why is it that we so often underestimate the value and importance of the church?
- God’s is establishing powerful aspects of His all-encompassing, eternal glory through us!

-- My opinion: Ephesians 2:1-10 is such a magnificently powerful passage because, more than anywhere else in Scripture, it describes the process by which God is revealing this glory through us, the church.

-- Here it is in a nutshell: Through His Son, Jesus Christ, God miraculously transforms us from objects of His wrath to become masterpieces of His mercy. Entirely by His grace, He rescues us from spiritual death and raises us to a new life in which we have the astonishing privilege to become the fullness of Christ on earth. Being the fullness of Christ on earth means, among other things, bring glory to God's name by doing the good works He prepared in advance for us to do.

-- In the modified language of Ephesians 3:10: Hear this:

“God's intent was that now, through our redemption and through the good works He prepared in advance for us to do, God making His manifold wisdom known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.”

-- Application:

-- If you are not actively and joyfully serving God in the church, then you are robbing God of glory that He intends to display through you.

-- John Piper's notes on Ephesians 1:23 – “God did not exalt Jesus and subject all things to him and then simply say, “Now go ahead and fill the universe with your glory; fill all things with yourself.” Instead He raised Him and exalted Him and subjected all things under Him, and then made Him one with the church, as head to the body, and said, “Now, my Son, you and those with whom you are united as head to body, go forth in the universe and fill it with all that you are in your body. Let everything, from the highest heaven to the lowest hell, be filled with a revelation of your glorious perfections in the form of a chosen, destined, blood-bought, called, justified, holy, glorified, and infinitely, everlastingly satisfied people, your body, the church of the living God. Amen”

-- *Are you giving God the glory that only He deserves by using the time, talents, and treasures He has given you to serve Him?*

-- *Or are you selfishly squandering them in a futile pursuit of your own glory?*

-- You have been saved to serve.

-- *How will you respond today?*