

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Joshua & Carol Ngunta | Mali



PRAISE
- Tabitha Cares Mali is well underway. The team has worked hard to finalize all necessary documents. There are many steps in the future. Thank you for your prayer and support.
- The Lambs School Projects continues to make strides. We have raised \$62,000 towards the purchase of the school. We are well on our way to our \$270,000 goal.

PRAY
- for Carol’s family as Carol’s brother.
Pray for strength, comfort, and healing during this time.

- for the transitions going on in the Mali government.
Pray for positive changes and stability.

 Handout: 10/29/23
Study Date: 11/05/23

Giving Back

You are saved by grace! Grace is the unmerited favor of God. It is the inexhaustible supply of God’s goodness, based on the work of Christ, whereby he does for us what we do not deserve, could never earn, and would never be able to repay.

But that’s not all. When God saved you, he relocated you: He ... raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens. Paul said previously that Jesus was seated in the heavenly places with resurrection power and dominion (Ephesians 1:20–21). Now he says God relocated us there too in Christ Jesus. Believers are participants with Christ in this spiritual reality. We are linked with him, and given a place of governmental authority in the spiritual realm. This is how you have access to your spiritual privileges—to “every spiritual blessing”(1:3)—that God has placed in your account.

It is grace that makes Christianity different from every other religion. Other religions tell you what you must do to get to God. Christianity tells you what God has done to get to you. For all eternity God will display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Or, to put it another way, you haven’t seen anything yet! Eternity with God will be a non-stop, never-ending, blow-your-mind experience.

This grace is only available through faith (2:8). If grace is what God deposited for you, faith is the way you make a withdrawal. It is the means of withdrawing God’s grace so that it is made manifest in history. Grace is God’s gift (2:8)—received, not earned (see Rom 4:4–5; 11:6). It doesn’t come by means of works, so that no one can boast (2:9). In other words, there will be no strutting like peacocks in heaven. You will only be able to brag about the magnificent grace of God. You are saved by grace (2:8).

Although you’re not saved by good works, you are saved for good works. We are his workmanship, Paul says, created in Christ Jesus for good works. When it comes to your salvation, God is crafting your life into a piece of art. He is working on you and doing something with you. You are being re-created to do good works. A good work is a divinely prescribed action that benefits others in such a way that God is glorified (see Matt 5:16).

God saved you for his purposes and pleasure. Many Christians are unfulfilled and miserable because they’ve never gotten around to the work God has for them. When you understand the grace with which God saved you, gratitude will drive your response to it. The purpose for your life has already been designed. You don’t have to come up with it. God prepared ahead of time for us to do good works. He will give you the desire for them and the ability to pull them off, but you must live them out. Remember, the canvas does not dictate to the painter; the painter dictates to the canvas

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 4:4-5; Matthew 5:16

Introduction

1. What are some of the ways in which God has worked in your life?
2. What are some ways in which God has used you to work in the lives of others?

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 6:23; II Peter 3:8-10

Sin's Work Against Us

3. Based upon today's scripture reading, what was sin's effect on you?
4. How has God shown His patience to you?

Wednesday: Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 10:1-14

God's Work For Us

5. List the ways in which God has shown His love for you.
6. If you were once dead in trespasses, what did God do to make you alive again? What else has he done for you according to today's Scripture reading?

Thursday: Ephesians 2:10a, 4:7-16; II Corinthians 5:17

God's Work In Us

7. What does it mean that you are God's workmanship?
8. What work is God doing inside of you?
9. What does today's Scripture reading teach us about our purpose?

Friday: Ephesians 2:10b; Hebrews 13:16; I Corinthians 2:9-13

God's Work Through Us

10. What role does "good works" play in the life of the believer?
11. What good works has God prepared for you?
12. How does what you do bring glory and praise to God?