
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 09/29/2019

Ephesians 2:8-10 – “Transformed for Good Works” by Drew Hunter

Overview

In different seasons of our life and in different stages of our spiritual growth, we have different expectations around how much our life should change as Christians. We must admit that we cannot reach perfection in this life. But we must avoid the other ditch – that we will remain unchanged without any hope of actually getting better. Instead, God actually promises slow, steady, and real transformation. We see this in three different realities that affect how we think about good works. In Christ, we have:

1. A New Identity
2. A New Purpose
3. A New Influence

Quotations

“Worldliness is that system of values which in any culture has the fallen sinner at its center, which takes no account of God and his word, and which therefore views sin as normal and righteousness as abnormal... It thus gives great plausibility to what is morally wrong and, for that reason, makes what is wrong seem normal.” – David Wells

Understanding & Application

- 1) Why does Paul specifically mention that we are **created** in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph. 2:10)? How does this identity help us avoid the ditches of perfection and stagnation in how we think about our spiritual growth?
- 2) Several different purposes likely come to mind when you consider the purpose of your existence. What did you find surprising about the purpose Paul mentions in Eph. 2:10 – that we are created in Christ Jesus **for good works**?
- 3) Read *Ezekiel 36:27* out loud together a few times. Why does **this** Scripture have such significance in shaping our understanding of salvation and good works? How have you seen God recently fulfill this promise in your own life?
- 4) Take note of David Wells’ insightful definition of worldliness. Also consider the ways that Pastor Drew highlighted the influence of the flesh (Eph. 2:3), the world (Eph. 2:2), and Satan (Eph. 2:2). These influences have lost their power in the life of a Christian. Even still, how have you recently been affected by these influences? How do you fight against these influences?
- 5) God’s Spirit frequently brings one particular truth or emphasis to our mind as we sit under the preaching of his Word. Take a moment to reflect on the main truth God wanted you to hear on Sunday. For example,
 - Did God expose an area of worldliness with the light of his truth? If so, what?
 - Have you been provoked to live more intentionally? If so, how?

Share with your group how God’s Word changes how you hope to live tomorrow.