#### The Lord God's Ekklesia

Part 12 – God's Masterpiece



#### Ephesians 2:1-10

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,

that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

And he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

# God's Masterpiece EKELESIA THE CALLED OUT ONES

## Masterpiece Defined

A person's greatest piece of work.

A masterpiece displays the mastery of the master.

## Principle #1

Despite the messes we have been and that we still are, and despite the messes we have made and that we still make, God continues to faithfully work at molding and transforming each mess into a masterpiece.

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,

that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

And he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

#### From

- Dead because of our disobedience and many sins.
- Living in sin like the rest of the world.
- Obeying the Devil and demons.
- Following the passionate desires and inclinations of our flesh.
- Subject to God's anger.

#### To

- Receiving eternal life because
   God is so rich in mercy and love.
- Being seated with Christ in the Heavenly realms.
- Being an example God will point to in the coming ages of the incredible wealth of God's love and grace.

#### To

- Being saved by God's grace when we believed.
- Being given the gift of salvation.
- Being God's masterpiece.
- Being born again in Christ so that we can do the good works that He planned for us to do long ago.

## Principle #2

Christ's ekklesia fulfills its identity as His masterpiece when it lives out its purpose as the greatest demonstration and vehicle of God's love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness in the world.

And he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

### YOU NEVER

**HAVE TO ADVERTISE A** FIRE. EVERYONE COMES **RUNNING WHEN THERE'S A** FIRE. LIKEWISE, IF YOUR **CHURCH IS ON FIRE, YOU** WILL NOT HAVE TO **ADVERTISE IT. EVERYONE AROUND WILL ALREADY** 

KNOW IT.

LEONARD RAVENHILL



## Principle #3

Christ's Masterpiece, the ekklesia, was created to be so much more and to do so much more than what we are seeing today.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## Jesus said: I tell you, you are Peter. And on this Rock I will build My church

and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it

#### Matthew 16:19

And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

## Principle #4

God's Masterpiece is not a stagnate piece of art to be admired, it has a very specific purpose that has been hand picked by God.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

#### John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

## Principle #5

When God looks at the state of the ekklesia, He considers it a masterpiece despite all its flaws, mistakes, and failures; because He sees flashes of its greatness and because He knows what it will look like once it is all finished. The ekklesia has championed and spearheaded such things as the abolition of slavery, the end of the Roman arena, the concepts of free public education, charitable hospitals and orphanages, women's suffrage, and a host of other humanitarian activities.

## Principle #6

To truly be an ekklesia that is genuinely becoming God's Masterpiece, we must live out the realities of the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

Every human masterpiece that has ever been created or that will ever be created will cease to exist at some point. But Christ's Masterpiece will exist forever.

## Principle #7

You are in the process of becoming God's masterpiece, and the ekklesia can help.

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