

Part 1 Living As God's Masterpiece

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere,

I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly,

asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power

that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

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!)

For 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, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.



Principle #1

Your reality of being God's Masterpiece is a past, present, and future reality.

Our Past Reality

- We were dead because of our disobedience and many sins. (v.1)
- We were living in sin like the rest of the world. (v.2)

Our Past Reality

- We obeyed the Devil, the commander of the powers in the unseen world. (v.2)
- We allowed the Devil's spirit to work in our hearts because we refused to obey God. (v.2)

Our Past Reality

- We followed the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. (v.3)
- We were subject to God's anger. (v.3)

Other Side of the Coin



God's Past Reality

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

Our Current Reality

- God purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave us our sins. (1:7)
- God has showered us with His kindness, wisdom, and understanding (1:8)

God is so rich in mercy and loving towards us that when He raised Christ from the dead, He gave everyone who chooses to believe in Him, eternal life. (3:4-5)

- We are united with Christ (6-7)
- We were saved by grace when we believed in Jesus. (3:8)
- Our salvation is a gift from God so we cannot take credit for receiving it. (3:8)

- Our salvation is not a reward for the things we've done so we can't boast about it. (3:9)
- We are God's Masterpiece (3:10)

- We have been recreated in Christ. (3:10)
- We can now do the good things God planned for us to do before the foundation of the world. (3:10, 1:4-8)

Our Future Reality

- We will be seated with Christ in the Heavenly realms. (v.6)
- We will be an example that God points to in the coming ages, of the incredible wealth of His love and grace. (v.7)

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Your reality of being God's Masterpiece is a past, present, and future reality.

Anyone and everyone who has received God's grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is God's Masterpiece.

Despite all your past sins, flaws, mistakes, and failures, God calls you His Masterpiece because He can see the final product He's creating. He knows who you will be and what you will do.

You were recreated in Christ through faith to be so much more than who you are today.

You were recreated in Christ to fulfill the destiny (specific good works) that God designed you for, even before the foundation of the world.

All of God's Masterpieces are created to be active and productive like their Creator.

When it comes to living as God's Masterpiece, you must decide whether you are committed to one day or day one.

