

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – September 24, 2020

The Lord be with you.

Have you ever thought of your Christian life as a masterpiece? Have you ever heard God saying to you, you are my handiwork, you were special to me? Maybe you have, maybe you haven't. Well, I hope that today you will hear God speaking this to you as I am in the New Testament book of Ephesians chapter 2, verse 10, and what I think has got to be one of the most amazing, most wonderful verses in all of the Bible.

Let me read it here, Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Now, note to this first, it comes right after saying, "For it is by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works." Now, a scripture says again and again, salvation is God's work. It is by the grace of God that you and I are saved. Our salvation is 100% God's doing. So that, that brings us then to our verse today, "for we are God's handiwork," you see it's God's doing... Now, the Greek word here translated handiwork. It's a really interesting word. It is the word *poima*, P-O-I-M-A. It gives us our English word poem. We are God's *poima*, God's handiwork. And this tells us why salvation is not of us, it's not something we do, it is God's handiwork. We are God's work, that's why salvation is of God, that we are created and formed by God, we are divine handiwork.

I saw a poster one time that read, I know I'm somebody because God don't make no junk. And this is the real basis of self-esteem, but sadly, our culture knows nothing about that. We are God's handiwork. We might sometimes have things that happen that make us doubt our worth, but we are God's handiwork, his *poima*, we are God's work of art. Now, this word *poima* is used only one other time in the New Testament, use in Romans 1:20 where it speaks of God's handiwork, creation of the world. Now, here in today's verse *poima* speaks of another creation and even greater creation, and that's God's new creation of you and me. In 2 Corinthians Chapter 5 verse 17, it says, "If anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation." So every Christian is, God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works. That's why God saved you. Why God has made you a new creation in Christ to do good works. It wasn't just to get you to heaven, I know that's how it's presented sometimes, but we are created in Christ Jesus to do good works. We are not... We're not saved by good works, but we are saved to do good works. We are here for a purpose, we are God's handiwork for doing something special in this world, and it says that these good works for which we have been created, it says that God prepared them in advance for us to do.

So, before you were even born, God prepared in advance. Good things for you to be to do. Your life is no afterthought to God. God has made everything ready beforehand. I like to think when I see snow that God creates, scientists tell us, God creates such an infinity, a variety of snowflakes that no two snowflakes are alike. And God has created you in Christ Jesus, so that there will never, ever be another you... There will never be another person just like you, to do the good works that God has created you to do. I really hope that you can hear God saying to you today that you are My handiwork, my masterpiece, I'm never giving up on you. You are special to me. Just think, the God who spoke of word and created a universe, a *poima* of billions and billions of galaxies, that he is creating you and me, his special handiwork that will fill the ages with his praise. If we think the

## Water from Rock

universe is amazing, just wait til we see what God has done in your life.

Loving Father, thank you for the good works, the good life already prepared for us to step into today for your glory and for our eternal good. Amen.

I am Tim Smith a fellow traveler on the pilgrim way. Thanks for listening, until next time.

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