

# **The Mercy of God and the Good Works of the Church**

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

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# Summary of Ephesians 2:4

1. God is super-abundant in mercy and therefore the gospel began in the heart of God (v. 4).
2. God conceived the gospel in all its parts, with all its implications, and sovereignly chose to direct his love toward the elect (v. 4).

# Summary of Ephesians 2:4

3. God prepared good works before the foundation of the world that those who would be made alive in Christ should walk in them (v. 10).

## Key Question:

What does it mean to say that God prepared our good works beforehand?

Pro = before

Etoimazo = to prepare or make

Proetoimazo = to prepare  
beforehand or make ready in  
advance

## Key Question:

When we win the lost or pray for the sick or clothe the naked or visit those in prison, are we choosing to do these things or has God already chosen these things for us? Are we just robots?

# Key Question:

- Ephesians 2:10 clearly teaches that God is ultimately responsible for the good works we do.
- However, the Bible is clear in many places that we will give an account for our lives and we will be held responsible for the choices we make.
- Therefore, although God does fashion our good works for us, he does it in such a way as not to violate our will.

## Key Question:

What is the proper relationship between faith and good works?

- We are saved **by** grace, **through** faith, **for** good works.
- Good works display what faith receives

# Why is this Good News?

- This is good news because it means that God has a purpose for my life that cannot be thwarted!
- This is good news because by preparing our good works for us, God has made a way to remove all boasting from our mouths.
- This is good news because through our good works we participate directly in the delivery of the super-abundant mercy that resides within the heart of God Almighty.