
Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. *Ephesians 2:8-10 (NRSV)*

Notes:

Biography

Craig was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from The King's College and Princeton Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in The History of Christianity from The University of Chicago.

Craig is the author of several books, including *Yearning*, *When God Interrupts*, *Hustling God*, *Sacred Thirst*, *Extravagant Mercy*, *Searching For Home*, and most recently, *The Pastor as Minor Poet*.

He has served parishes in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Washington D.C. Currently, Craig teaches at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and serves as pastor of The Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes; they have three children, and a dog named Esau.

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day this week meditating on the topic

Monday

Read Ephesians 2:1–10. What verses from this weekend’s message really stood out to you?

What do you think God wanted you to take home from hearing this message?

Thank God specifically for three truths you see in these verses! Pray that you will grow in your understanding of God’s grace and that it will inform how you live your life.

Tuesday

Re-read these verses about God’s gift to you: Ephesians 2:4–9. This is the really good news! According to these verses, what was God’s motivation to make us alive in Christ?

According to these verses, why can no one boast in their own salvation? Why do you suppose that some believers come across to others as arrogant or boastful in their salvation?

How would you describe God’s rich grace in your life?

Today, thank God specifically for His grace, mercy, and riches lavished freely upon you!

Wednesday

Re-read Ephesians 2:10. How have you struggled with letting others “construct” who you are?

How does it encourage you to know that you are what God has made you to be?

According to these verses, what is the purpose of God’s workmanship? How have you seen God’s creative workmanship operating in your life in the way described in this verse?

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, what good work can you do as part of your destiny this week?

Ask God to help you keep your eyes open to the opportunities He has prepared in advance for you to do.

Thursday

Please re-read Ephesians 2:8–9. Let’s take these verses apart phrase-by-phrase. Write down your thoughts about each phrase and think of how you can apply these verses to your life this week:

“For it is by grace you have been saved –

Through faith – and this is not from yourselves –

It is the gift of God –

Not by works –

So that no one can boast” –

Thank God today that your salvation does not depend on you. Pray for opportunities to share God’s amazing grace with others this week.

Friday

Please read Ephesians 3:14–19. How does Paul’s prayer reflect the grace we studied in Ephesians 2:8–9?

How does this prayer encourage you in your understanding of God’s love and grace today?

In what area of your life do you need to become more firmly rooted in God’s love?

Thank God today for His amazing love for you. Pray that God will use you to encourage others with the truth of these verses. Talk to God about the ways you are struggling with being rooted in God’s love. Pray that you will grow in your faith and confidence in God’s love and grace for you.

Saturday

Please read Psalm 103. Write down the ways this passage explains God’s grace:

Thank God today for His grace, forgiveness and love. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that your life will be a reflection of God’s grace and that you will have peace and confidence that comes from knowing you are whom God has made you to be.



Memory Verse

“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, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” *Ephesians 2:8–10 (NIV)*