



**International Bible Lesson**  
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series  
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

## **God's Prepared Plans for Christians**

### **March 12, 2017**

### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).*

The Bible teaches that every person is created in the image of God, and every person has “followed the ways of this world” and “the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient” (Ephesians 2:2). Because of our behavior, all of us deserve God’s just condemnation, but God saves people by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; therefore, no one can brag that they are better than others or were saved by their good behavior. More than being saved from just condemnation, Paul wrote that Christians are God’s handiwork: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). God saves people so they can do good works in the world. Jesus Christ “gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good (or good works)” (Titus 2:14). God sees, hears, and answers the fervent prayers of His people when due to accident, illness, injury, age, or persecution they cannot outwardly express their faith for others to see. Many people have done mighty works that were not good works. God does not require mighty works from His people, but God does require good works that anyone can do by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Whether our good works seem great or small to others does not matter to God. God prepared in advance the good works Christians do; therefore, God receives the praise for every good work of every Christian.

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## Thinking Further

1. How did we once live and why?
2. Why were we once deserving of God's judgment and wrath?
3. If Jesus is our Lord and Savior, why are we now alive with Christ?
4. Where is Jesus Christ today and where are all true Christians spiritually?
5. Why are we alive in Christ on the earth today?

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Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.  
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