

Ichthus Bible School

2020/2021



We are His Workmanship

Ephesians 2 v10

7th November 2020

Notes by Sarah Larkin

Part 1

Word Study - Ephesians 2: 10

Two ideas in one verse; and two other references in the NT

ποίημα (poiéma) Workmanship

Ephesians 2: 10 and Romans 1:20

προετοιμάζω (proetoimazó) Prepared beforehand

Ephesians 2: 10 and Romans 9:23

For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God **prepared beforehand** so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

The Greek reads "For of Him we are a product"

For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is,* His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has **been made**, so that they are without excuse. Romans 1:20

And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon objects of mercy, which He **prepared beforehand** for glory, namely us, whom He also called, not only from among Jews, but also from among Gentiles. Romans 9: 23

Poiema from **poieo** = to make with the suffix **-ma** = the result of work

- Means something that is composed, constructed, made, manufactured, a product, a design produced by an artisan, a work of art, something artfully created.
- In the Septuagint (Greek translation of the OT) **poiema** refers to God's work in creation.

Proetoimázō from /*pró*, "beforehand" and /*hétoimos*, "ready because prepared" – properly, made ready in advance; hence, "ready, already prepared".

Read: Ephesians 2: 1-10: Remade / new creation

Read: Romans 1: 18-25: Made / Creation

Read: Romans: 19-24: What for / Purpose

The triangle of:

Worship (vertical) – John 1, 3-5; Col 1, 16-17; Heb 1, 1-2; Phil 2, 6-11

Creativity and the Prophetic (horizontal) - Romans 1, 20

Ephesians 2, 10; 1 Thessalonians 5,19-21

Part 1: Reflections

- God has made two things – creation and His redeemed people
- He has an end in mind for His creations

Notes

- He speaks through what He has made
.....
- We are made in His image
- We have an imagination to conceive an idea, see a vision/
know what we are going to do beforehand
- We have the power to create and craft (improve) what we
make
- We communicate through what we make – we can be
prophetic!

Pause for Thought

“Creativity is the ability to transform feelings and imagination into tangible concepts and products.”

- Do you agree with that?
- What else is creativity for you?
- Are there things you would like to do to be more creative?
- What’s stopping you?

Identify one or steps you can take to bring more creativity into your life

Part 2

Meditation Verses: The Work(s) of His hands

- Psalm 19: 1-2
- Psalm 111:7
- Isaiah 5: 12
- Psalm 8:6
- Isaiah 45:10-12
- Psalm 143:5
- Psalm 28:5
- Isaiah 29:23
- Psalm 139: 13-16

Part 2: Reflections

The Bible tells us God wants to both:

- Establish the works of our hands AND bless the work of our hands

(see Proverbs 16:3; Psalm 128:2; Psalm 90:17; Deuteronomy 28:12)

Take some time to pray this week that God would both **establish** and **bless** the works of your hands.

Pause for thought

Poem: One Three Nine

I searched, I did
I know many things, I do
My thoughts are close to me, so close
Flames searing my innermost parts

Sitting down, arising
 The flames of thought burn and burn
 The scrutinised path, the bed I lie upon so singed
 Intimately acquainted with the worded tongue I am enclosed
 My hand laid upon the plough, it trembles
 The knowledge of you high-beamed above me, unattained
 Where can I go?
 Rooted to the spot
 Or winged, dawn breaks me down
 What remains unshaken? How I am led?
 Darkness and light alike, intertwined in the inward part
 Woven in Mother's womb
 Fearfully wonderfully worked
 Exposed frame skilfully wrought
 O, my unformed substance has formed an outer shell
 And I cannot see the days ordained
 Nor what is written in your book:
 You say, there is a hurtful and an everlasting way
 And the heart is to be searched for anxious thoughts most dear
 And that on the wings of dawn, the choice is clear

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Part 3

Some Thoughts: On Poetry

What is poetry? Not prose!

"Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility." Wordsworth

A piece of writing in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by particular attention to diction (sometimes involving rhyme), rhythm, and imagery. (OED definition)

A poem is made up of

Meaning (word) *What you hear*

Metaphor (image) *What you see*

Meter (sound) *What you feel*

Some Thoughts: Why poems?

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|---|------------------------|
| A poem has an author | We are made by God |
| Each poem is original | We are totally unique |
| Poems communicate ideas and emotion (content) | Our lives have meaning |
| Poems have rhythm and rhyme (form) | We are to find balance |

