

SAVED ON PURPOSE, FOR PURPOSE

Jazmin Mullen

**Jesse Curney III, Senior Pastor
New Mercies Christian Church**

SETTING THE SCENE: EPHESUS

- **Large, seaport city**
- **Capital of the Roman province of Asia**
- **Diverse ethnic makeup**
- **Various religious beliefs**

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

- **Composed of Jews and Gentiles**
- **Several events in Acts occurred in Ephesus.**
- **Paul visited and pastored here for several years.**
- **Timothy pastored after Paul.**
- **The first church mentioned in the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation**

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Author: Paul

Genre: Epistle (Prison Epistle)

Audience: Church of Ephesus

- **Some scholars believe this was a circular letter to several churches in Asia Minor.**

Structure:

- **The wealth (through Christ) of the believer**
- **The walk of the believer**
- **The warfare of the believer**

EPHESIANS 1

We were adopted according to His will.

We are redeemed through Christ, and there are benefits to this (forgiveness, inheritance).

Paul hears of their faith and prays for them.:

- **Spiritual wisdom**
- **Revelation**
- **Enlightened eyes**
- **To understand the glory of His inheritance in believers**
- **To understand God's power**

The Power of God:

- **Raised Christ from the dead**
- **Seated Christ at His right hand in heaven**
- **Placed Christ above all things**
- **Placed all things under the feet of Christ**
- **Gave Christ to be head of all things – including His body, the church**

SAVED **ON** PURPOSE

EPHESIANS 2:1 – 3

¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

OUR SPIRITUAL STATE

We were:

- **Spiritually dead – destitute of a life that recognizes or is devoted to God**

Why? Our trespasses and sins

- **Conducting ourselves like the world**
- **Moving according to Satan's ways**
- **Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind**
- **Children of wrath – under God's divine judgment and sentenced to eternal separation from God**

Despite all that we were, God made us alive!

EPHESIANS 2:4 – 7

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

GOD'S LOVE

God's Role:

- Rich in **mercy** – (compassion, pity, withholding what we deserve)
- Great **love (agape)** – wanting the highest good, no matter the cost, for another
- Raised us to a new spiritual life through **grace** – favor, kindness, giving what we don't deserve
- **Saved** – rescued, delivered, preserved, delivered from the penalties of judgment
- Will reveal the abundance of His grace in His **kindness** towards us

God showed His mercy, love, grace, power,
and kindness towards us.

Salvation started with God.
We were saved on purpose!

EPHESIANS 2:8 – 9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

SAVED **ON** PURPOSE: EPHESIANS 2:8 – 9

Faith is the conduit that grace flows through.:

- **Grace – favor, kindness, given what we don't deserve**
- **Saved – rescued, delivered, preserved, delivered from the penalties of judgment**
- **Faith – persuasion, "God-wrought conviction"**

By **His favor and kindness towards us, we are delivered from the penalties of judgment. This only occurs after we are fully persuaded that He would do such a thing.**



**What do you do when someone
gives you a gift?**

SAVED **ON** PURPOSE: EPHESIANS 2:8 – 9

Salvation is a gift.

Salvation should humble us.

I attend church every Sunday.	I pray every day.	I feed the homeless.
I attend Bible Study every Wednesday.	I fast once a month.	I'm a good person.
I volunteer in multiple ministries	I've never done _____.	I'm consistent in _____.

OUR WORKS

Our works cannot:

- **Get us into heaven**
- **Keep us in heaven**
- **Allow us to stay in heaven when we get there**

Our works are not the **root of our salvation, but the **fruit** of it.**



SAVED **FOR PURPOSE**
EPHESIANS 2:10

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- **Workmanship – handiwork, thing made, creation**
- **Created – brought into existence, formed**
- **Good – beneficial, virtuous, in alignment with His character and promotes His purposes**
- **Works – act, deed, thing done, visible actions**

We are His handiwork, brought into existence (through our new identity) in Christ Jesus for virtuous, visible actions in alignment with His character and promoting His purposes!

SAVED **FOR PURPOSE**

God's role: Preparation of the good works

Our role: Walk in them (daily)

**Our purpose is to glorify God by walking in the good works
He has already set out for us.**

BRINGING IT HOME

- **Dead**
- **Child of wrath**
- **Fulfill desires of flesh and mind**
- **Grace**
- **Kindness**
- **Mercy**
- **Love**
- **Power Rich**
- **Gifts**
- **Saves**
- **Creates**
- **Prepares**
- **Believes**
- **Walks**

BRINGING IT HOME

Where do we look when we're trying to find our good works?

- **That can look like...**
- **How can we discern?**
- **How can we endure?**

SAVED **ON PURPOSE, **FOR** PURPOSE**

We are saved on purpose because of God's mercy and love towards us. As a result of our salvation, we live lives that glorify Him; walking in obedience in all of the good works He has already prepared for us.

Our purpose is fulfilled each time we take a step.

WALK IT OUT: TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

For the person who struggles to operate in grace instead of performance:

- **Ask God:** Show me where I am trying to earn what You have given me
- **Release:** Pressures to perform, prove, or fix yourself before coming to God
- **Say:** “I am saved by grace, not by works. I will accept what God has already given.”

For the person who feels stuck and unsure of their purpose:

- **Ask God:** Open my eyes to what You have already placed in front of me.
- **Release:** That purpose is too far away or out of reach;
- **Say:** “The Lord has already created a plan for me. I will be faithful where I am as I wait for Him to show me my next steps.”

WALK IT OUT: TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

For the person who overthinks without moving:

- **Ask God:** Give me strength and courage to take the next step, even if I don't know the full plan.
- **Release:** The need to control the situation
- **Say:** "I will take a step with what I do know. My step of obedience is sufficient until I know what's next."

For the person who does not feel qualified:

- **Ask God:** Lord, give me eyes to see myself the way You see me.
- **Release:** Comparison, inadequacy, insecurity
- **Say:** “I am God’s workmanship. He will complete every work started in me, as long as I keep moving forward.”

WALK IT OUT: TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

For the person who feels like it's too late:

- **Ask God:** Help my unbelief and help me to see that you still have good works for me to complete.
- **Release:** Shame, guilt, control
- **Say:** “There is nothing impossible for God, and I can move today in what He asks of me.”

For the person who keeps starting but not staying consistent:

- **Ask God:** Help me to have the self-control and discipline to keep walking, even when I don't feel like it .
- **Release:** Any fears, doubts, desires for perfection, distractions
- **Say:** “God is the only one who has to be perfect, I just have to be consistent.”