

## Get in the Game!

### Ephesians 2:10

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* Ephesians 2:10 (English Standard Version)

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.* Ephesians 2:10 (New Living Translation)

**Three principles in Ephesians 2:10** help us know what God says about getting in the game, about making a difference in life.

- **Principle #1: YOU WERE CREATED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

- God has meaningful and purposeful things for His people to accomplish during their life on planet earth.

“Created us anew in Christ Jesus . . .” = being born again, regeneration (See 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:15)

*. . . he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, . . .* Titus 3:5 (ESV)

- Why did God save and transform you? So that you could do the good works that He has planned for you.

#### Two Things That Last Forever

- The Word of God

*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.* Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

- People's souls

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.* 1 John 5:13 (ESV)

(See also Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9 and 1 John 2:25)

- **Principle #2: GOD HAS MADE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR YOU TO GET IN THE GAME AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

#### How has God prepared you ahead to make a difference?

- God has given two basic resources that are available to every believer.

- God's Word, the Bible (See 2 Timothy 3:16)

*If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.* James 2:8 (NIV)

- God's Holy Spirit

- God has given the necessary skills and gifts needed for ministry.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

#### Two Different Kinds of Gifts from God

- Spiritual gifts: a capacity granted by the Holy Spirit enabling a believer to serve others in a specific way

- Natural gifts: the result of genetics, which are ordained by God

- God has given life opportunities and experiences.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

- **Principle #3: GETTING IN THE GAME REQUIRES OBEDIENCE TO GOD.**

“. . . that we should walk in them.”

“Walk” = Greek = *peripateo* = “to walk” but also “to conduct your life in a certain way”