November 1, 2026. Bethesda community

Topic: Does Salvation by grace require man's responsibility?

Philippians 1:27 *Whatever* happens, conduct yourselves in a manner ***worthy*** of the gospel of Christ.

Worthy

= “Axios”: fitting, suitable, appropriate, properly

Comparable, **of similar weight or value**

The question is, not simply, what must I *do*? Or even,

what is it that God has done for me. But,

- ***what is the value of this thing I have received?***
- ***Who have I become? What am I now?***
- ***Where am I” who am I under?***

Passage Study 1 Ephesians2

Ephesians1…[about Christ] 22 And God placed all things under his feet…

Ephesians 2 As for you…

[music: minor key] **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.
3 All of us also lived among them at one time, **gratifying the cravings** of our flesh[a] and following its desires and thoughts.
Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.
[music, major, moderato] 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
[Crescendo, up a key] 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he

might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

[quiet, reflective]

10 For **we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do**.

[***Gentile & Jew***]

- Far, brought near
- Excluded, now included with Abraham's descendants
- Foreigners, now citizens with God's people
- Two separate groups, now one family

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but **fellow citizens with God's people** and also **members of his household**,
20 **built** on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.
21 In him **the whole building** is joined together and rises **to become a holy temple in the Lord**.
22 And **in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**.



- ***What did God do? what is the value?***
- ***Who have I become? What am I now?***

Declare:

V10 ***[I am]*** **God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for [me] to do.**

[We are] a holy temple in the Lord. …22 And **in him *[we also]* are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**.

Passage Study2 Romans6

Questions	1What shall we say, then? *Shall we go on sinning* so that grace may increase? 2 By no means!	15 What then? *Shall we sin* because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

Premise (a foundational truth, used as a basis for logical argument)	We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that **all of us who were** baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?	16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey— whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?
For what? *So what?* *I am what?* (purpose, implication, identity)	[Today] just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too <u>may live a new life</u>**. [FUTURE] 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be **united with him** **in a resurrection like his**.	[changed allegiance] 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to **obey from your heart** the pattern of teaching **that has now claimed your allegiance**. 18 You **have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**
Supporting statement: How does it work? What's it got to do with me? (mechanism, material reality)	]Support 1] 6 *For we know that* our old self was crucified with him **so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,** that we should no longer be slaves to sin— *7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin*. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. [support2] 9 *For we know that* since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.	19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations.) [response1] Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.
Conclusion	12 Therefore do not let sin **reign** in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as**	20 When you **were slaves to sin**, you were free from the **control of righteousness**. 21 What benefit did you **reap** at that time from the things you are now ashamed of?

	an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and **offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness**.	Those things **result** in death! 22 But now that you have been **set free from** sin and have become **slaves of God**, the benefit you **reap leads to** holiness, and the result is eternal life.
Final contrast	14 For **sin shall no longer be your master,** because you are not u**nder the law**, but under grace.	23 For the **wages** of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom6:13

Who, what am I?

- Implements of un-just-ness (injustice)
- OR Implements of just-ness (justice).

Istruments=*Hoopla:* **<u>weapons of war</u>**, military equipment, armour, gear/tools,, implements. *Who uses hoopla?*

E.G., *James Parker's story. Truelove.is stories*

In this spiritual war,

- do you have a responsibility to the one who saved you?
- Which identity do you receive?

God's handiwork	built up as God's temple	War Weapon

Who is ***wielding*** you? To whom are you yielded? How do you know?

- This week, How will you live out this identity?
  Phil1:27 *worthy* of the gospel: What makes this difficult for you?