

# SERMON NOTES      Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October

## sunnysidechurch

### Living Church: God's Handiwork

**Bible passages: Ephesians 2.1-10; 1 Timothy 1.12-17**

#### Introduction

Living Church

- Church as the living Body of Christ with Christ as the head
- Church as something we live out

#### God's handiwork

- we are God's handiwork, his masterpiece; we reveal him
- we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139.14)

#### God's gift

- God rescues us because of his great love for us
- grace is a free gift to us which restores us and makes us whole

#### God's purpose

- saved by grace not by works
- God has prepared works for us to do which we do out of love for him not trying to earn his love
- works will be things we are equipped to do and find joy in doing for God

#### Conclusion

'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' (Ephesians 2.8-10)

#### Some questions for discussion

1. What do you see when you think of God's handiwork? What does it tell you about God?
2. Read Ephesians 2.1-10. What do you notice?
3. How do you respond to the picture Paul paints in verses 1-3?
4. Why do we find grace so difficult to accept?
5. Why is grace so important as we think about what God is calling us to do?
6. Read 1 Timothy 1.12-17. In what ways does Paul's experience help us to understand the importance and impact of grace?
7. 'But God'. How might knowing you are God's masterpiece and loved by him change a situation you are facing?
8. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –

Ephesians 2.8

Why not spend some time thanking God for his saving love and asking him what good works he has created you to do?

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