

Get a Life!

Ephesians

A Free Gift

Lesson Eleven

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Ephesians

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

A Free Gift

Lesson Goal: To help students to understand that the Christian's new life is free.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10; I Corinthians 1:26-31; II Corinthians 5:17

Do you see the commercials, or get the mail that says if you buy something or do something, you will get a free gift? You might subscribe to some magazine, and you will get a free weather radio. In that case, you must buy something to get a free gift. Or, maybe you get gifts from family on Christmas and your birthday. But, what if someone in your family, on a day that was no special occasion, said, "Hey, here's a gift for you." In each case, you would be happy to get something that was free.

Today, let's talk about the most important, best, free gift anyone can ever get. The only condition in receiving this gift is that you have to accept it. It is a gift offered by our Heavenly Father, the one who created all things and loves you more than anyone else ever could.

The gift is eternal life with God. This gift includes the forgiveness of our sins, opportunity to live a life that is happy and productive and to ultimately live with God in Heaven for all eternity. Now, that's a gift! For short, it is called salvation. It promises freedom and happiness now, and the most wonderful life you can imagine after you die and go to Heaven.

So, what's the catch? Well, if you want that weather radio, you must subscribe to the magazine. If you want a birthday gift, you must wait until your birthday comes around. Most of the free gifts we get here on earth have some requirement attached. However, with God and the salvation He offers, we are told that "it is by grace we have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8) Paul emphasizes the fact that even the faith, which is our part in salvation, is a gift from God. Without God's gracious, free gift of faith, we couldn't even get that far.

There are no strings attached. As a matter of fact, nothing that we can do will get this salvation for us. If it is not a gift from God, then it is not available. Paul goes on to be certain that we understand. He says, in verse nine, that salvation is "not of works, so that no one can boast." God, it seems, wants to be sure that none of us can brag to another about what we did to please God enough that He would save us. All of our salvation: our sins forgiven, our God-blessed life on earth and our eternal home in Heaven with God, is a free gift.

Verse ten nails it down. Paul says that "...we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus..." He is saying

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that all that we are as Christians is the result of God's creation. This making of us into new persons is done by God through Jesus. Now, we are created in the image of God, according to Genesis, and through our salvation we are "a new creation" in Christ Jesus. (II Corinthians 5:17) We become, fully and completely, the work of God. We can't take credit for any of it. It is definitely, and for certain, a free gift.

Now, let's notice what else Ephesians says about this new creation. Verse ten tells us that the person created, in salvation, is designed to do good works. (also see, Titus 2:14) Literally, that means God has put into us the ability and the opportunity to do good things. We do good things for God, for others and even for God's creation. God had this in mind before He created the world. He made the world and everything else we know anything about with this kind of work in mind.

So, to be true to our calling in Jesus, we use the abilities God has given us to do good things that He leads us to in our walk with Him every day. Maybe He has given you the gift of teaching. You can do really good things as you share truth and even teach others about God.

Think of it this way. Estefan is alone. He has no home or family. Rosa and Eduardo adopt him. He hasn't done anything to deserve their love and care. He comes to live with them. In the home, he is assigned certain chores. He gets to help with the dishes each evening. He gets to carry out the trash on Mondays and Thursdays. He gets to help his new dad mow the lawn. Now he is a true member of the family. He not only gets a new name, but he can make a real contribution to the life of the family. It is just like that when we are born into God's family. He adopts us, even though we don't deserve it. He cares for us and He gives us important things to do as a part of our new family.

Memory Verse: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

Student Worksheet

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Memory Verse: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

>The gift is eternal _____ with God. This gift includes the forgiveness of our _____, opportunity to live a life that is happy and productive and to ultimately _____ with God in _____ for all eternity.

>Paul emphasizes the fact that even the _____, which is our part in salvation, is a _____ from God.

>Nothing that we can _____ will get this _____ for us.

>All of our salvation, our _____ forgiven, our God-blessed _____ on earth and our eternal home in Heaven with God, is a _____ gift.

>We are created in the image of God, according to Genesis, and through our _____ we are “a new creation” in Christ _____.

>God has put into us the ability and the opportunity to do _____ things. We do good things for _____, for _____ and even for God’s _____.

>So, to be true to our calling in Jesus, we use the _____ God has given us to do good things that He leads us to in our _____ with Him every day

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.