

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 19. God's doing, not ours



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Ephesians 2:1-10

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. (v 8-10)

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Hebrews 13:8

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

For some time, I have been trying to sort out a problem in my house. It had become more and more frustrating as everything I tried had failed. So it was a huge relief to hand the problem over to someone who knew what they were doing.

Life can be like that. We all have things that we want to change, but no matter how hard we try, we keep finding ourselves back where we started. We don't seem to be able to put these things right ourselves.

This passage reminds us that we can be saved – that is, our lives can be turned around and have a fresh start – because God will do it for us, not because of our own efforts. So, when it comes to changing things in our lives, it doesn't depend on us; we can turn to a professional expert, the God who loves us and made us to be like Him.

When a child shows their parent a painting they have done, the parent will praise and admire it, even if they can't quite make out what it is supposed to be! The parent values the child, not the painting. In the same way, God values us because He made us in His image, not because of what we have done.

God made you to do good things. If you want to be part of that, you actually need to stop trying in your own strength, and put your trust completely in Him. Have faith, not that you will be able to change your future, but that God will.

### Reflections:

- Think of a time when God has made things work out for you. If you can't think of one, try to remember a story you may have heard or read when He has changed someone else's life.
- Read Hebrews 13:8 – "Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever." What He has done in the past for you or someone else, He can do for you now.
- What do you want to change in your life? Bring it to God in prayer.
- If you would like to read more stories of what God has done for other people, ask the Chaplaincy if they can let you have any books or magazines.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

