

MESSAGE TWO

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Psalm 139:13-18 (NASB)

¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You

MESSAGE GOAL:

This sermon will help Christians understand that God has uniquely designed them as His masterpieces to do good works.

INTRODUCTION:

When you stand in your kitchen, you're surrounded by appliances. A refrigerator, an oven, a stove, a microwave, a toaster, a coffee maker, and others. All of these appliances were uniquely designed by the manufacturer to fulfill a designated purpose. The refrigerator will not heat up our food, the oven won't wash the dishes, and the toaster can't make the coffee in the morning. That's not what they were made to do. And if these appliances fail to accomplish the task they were designed to accomplish, then they have failed.

If men can do that with machines—design them to fulfill a designated purpose—God can craft people for unique purposes that will bring Him glory, bring others good, and advance His kingdom.

Let's look at Psalm 139 and Ephesians 2 to learn about how God, the master designer, has made each person to fulfill their unique destiny.

SERMON POINTS:

1. GOD HAS UNIQUELY DESIGNED YOU FOR A DESTINY

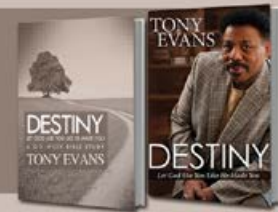
- God has woven you together intricately and uniquely to bring Him glory, bless others, and expand His kingdom.

- Learn how much worth you have before God by reading and meditating on Psalm 139:13-14: "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

2. GOD CREATED YOU AS A "MASTERPIECE" TO DO GOOD WORKS

- Let's look closely at Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."
- God has designed you as a masterpiece
 - In Ephesians 2:10, the word workmanship means masterpiece.
 - The title masterpiece is reserved for the most glorious example of a certain art form, such as a poem, a painting, a sculpture, or a piece of music.
 - Masterpieces are also known as such because of the skill and expertise of their creator.
- God has prepared good works for you to do
 - The good works God has prepared for you are the biblically authorized activities that bring God glory and benefit others.
 - As you walk in the path of good works God has laid out, you will fulfill your destiny.
- God's masterpieces must be set apart (2 Peter 1:2-4)
 - In order for you to be the masterpiece God wants you to be, He must sanctify you and make you more like Jesus Christ.
 - God will continue shaping and molding you as His masterpiece over the course of your entire life.
- The Church works best when all the masterpieces function as they were designed to function. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
 - Christians shouldn't spend time and effort trying to be someone else.
 - Every believer has an essential role to play, no matter how insignificant or obscure it may seem.





3. GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW YOUR WORTH AND LIVE AS HIS MASTERPIECE

- God's masterpieces, and their destinies, are specially designed
- God has only created one you; therefore you are rare and valuable.
- God's masterpieces always carry the name of their Creator
 - Human masterpieces are also known by their creators (Handel's Messiah, Michelangelo's David, Bach's 5th Symphony)
 - God protects His masterpieces because they have so much value to Him.

"God has so constructed your uniqueness that He wants His name attached to you."

"You've gotta hold your head up high and think of yourself no longer as ordinary because you have now been designated by your Creator as extraordinary."

"Whatever God has for your destiny is valuable and we can't live without it."

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

1. GOD UNIQUELY DESIGNED YOU: Too many Christians believe that they are "off the shelf" people. When we walk into a clothing store, we can choose from a number of shirts, belts, dresses, and pairs of shoes. But before these clothing items made it to the store shelf, they were mass produced in a large factory, likely with little attention to each individual shirt, belt, or sock. But God doesn't produce "off the shelf" people. Each person has been custom designed by His loving, sovereign hand. The fact that each person's finger prints are completely unique proves that God doesn't mass produce people. Let's start living with an awareness God has a perfect plan for each person He has uniquely crafted.

GOD WANTS HIS MASTERPIECES TO LOOK LIKE HIS SON: When you iron a shirt that is wrinkled, you have to add steam and heat in order to get the wrinkles out. And why do we iron shirts, pants, and dresses? Because we want to look good when we wear them. In the same way, God has to put us through the fires of refinement to smooth out the rough places and correct our flaws. We, as God's masterpieces, bear our Master's name and image. And when we fulfill our God-ordained destinies, God wants others to see Him through us.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"God crafts unique people for unique purposes that will bring Him glory, bring others good, and expand and advance His kingdom in history."

"You're not an off the shelf saint. You've been custom designed, uniquely made."

