

THE DIVINE POEM

BY GUY HAMMOND

Let's begin this devotional with one of the most inspiring and encouraging passages in all of scripture from Ephesians chapter 2.

“God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Isn't that amazing? Pretty incredible, isn't it? Why did God do this for us? The word that the Apostle uses in verse 10 to describe this new creation of spiritual beings is the noun “workmanship”, or as another translation puts it “handiwork” meaning “that which is made.” Now get this, and let this really encourage you! These words are translations of the same Greek word that we get the English word “poem” from. So that what Paul is saying here is simply this: Christians are the poems of God!

Isn't that astonishing! You are the poem of God! You are the product of His political design. You are the poetry of Him who was, is, and ever will be: the master poet, the poet of the soul, the author of life Himself. I don't know much about poetry, but the definition I found of a poet is: “One who articulates the best thoughts that arise in all other classes.”¹

So, when God made you, as incredibly difficult as this may be to believe, He was striving to articulate *the very best thoughts* that he could come up with and he came up with you!

I realize this is hard to grasp, especially when we are so sinful at times, yet this is the beauty of God and why being a Christian has so many blessings to it.

The Stars and the expanse of the universe – yes, that is mind boggling for sure, but to God it was not quite good enough; the unbelievable complexities of nature, the oceanic world, the animal kingdom, the plant kingdom – yes, but still not good enough. To God, there is something that is even more beautiful, something else that expresses His very best thoughts and ideas than all of the beauty in the universe, and it is you.

If anyone is to question whether or not God is a poet – in fact *the* poet – I would remind him that God gave space for the five books of poetry in scripture. There is also the poetry of Job, David and Solomon. And what about the poetic touch of God in and throughout nature? All that is good and beautiful in the whole of creation is the poetry of God. In Psalm 19:1 we are told “the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

Show me a star, and I will show you a poem of God. Show me a mountain, and I will show you a poem of God. Show me a rose, and I will show you a poem of God. Watch a mother hold her baby in her arms for the first time, and I will show you a poem of God. But the dearest and most special poem(s) of all to God are not the stars, the mountains, the flowers, photosynthesis; black holes, rainbows, the size of the universe, the trees – it is you and I.

And this is why Jesus died. You were so worth it to Him. God's love is LIGHT YEARS beyond our comprehension. Catch your breath as you consider these scriptures.

John 17:23

"God loves us as much as he loved Jesus!"

Proverbs 3: 32

"For the Lord detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence."

Mark 4:10

"The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you."

All throughout scripture, we are:

- Loved as the apple of God's eye,
- The virgin bride of his only Son,
- His treasured possession,
- His sons and daughters.

If you a Christian, then you are:

- As holy as God himself (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Clothed with Christ, with his righteousness, His purity. (Galatians 3:27)
- Seated with Christ on his throne! (Ephesians 2:6)

These are incredible truths, and they are real and true, even for Christians who come from a life of homosexuality and still battle with unwanted same gender attractions like me. God does not lie. This is who we are in Christ.

Isaiah 43:1-3

"But now, this is what the LORD says-- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel; your Saviour."

Yet we look at our lives and say *"My life is a mess. If anyone knew the thoughts I had, the things I was tempted with, the things I have done that no one else knows about, you would think my life reads like a nightmare not a poem. In fact, if my life is a poem I do not rhyme!"*

Yet that is the amazing thing about God. He does know our worst parts, yet he still loves us this much! I know the faults of my kids, but that does not for an instant take away how much I love them or feel for them. God's love for us remains the same, it does not rise or fall based on how we act or think. When you are righteous, He loves you, when you sin, He loves you.

Thoughts presented in this devotional are taken from the book *MESSED UP: Proof That You're More to God Than Your Mistakes* by Guy Hammond and published by Illumination Publishers. The book is a companion to the documentary movie *FINDING GUY* by One Compass Media.