

Stopping Short of God's Plan

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 2.

B. God has a plan for you whether you are walking in it or not.

II. God's plan for our lives involves His patience for us. God was patient with us while we were living in our lost condition. (II Peter 3:9)

III. God's plan for us is the extension of His grace to us.

A. God paid our sin debt.

B. God's grace also placed in the heavenly places with Christ. Believers have a brand new position in Christ.

C. We now have a relationship that cannot be tampered.

IV. God's plan for us is to do good works for God.

A. The new position is one of responsibility.

B. We do not get into a position with God by works, but God's plan for us is to do work prepared beforehand.

C. Every day of our lives should be a day to express the grace of God through good works.

D. Good works are those works that have eternal value to them.

E. We should be excited to do good works. (Titus 2)

F. A day will come where a man's works will be tested and rewarded accordingly. (I Corinthians 3)

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that a believer is not required to do good works after he has received salvation?

2. What does it mean that God has created a person for good works "beforehand?"

3. How does understanding God's patience give a person courage who shares the gospel frequently? Explain.
