

God's Grace has the power to completely transform our lives, but there is often confusion about **how** God extends His **Free Grace** to undeserving sinners like us. In the Bible, Proverbs 14:12 tells us that- ***"There is a way which seems right" ...but its end is the way of death.*** What if everything that **"seems right"** to you about **Grace** and gaining entrance to **Heaven** is **wrong**? This article explains **how God's Grace** changes lives and guarantees a **Glorious Future** in Heaven!

Religious leaders often emphasize **four things** when they talk about how a person can enter Heaven, and most people agree with these things- they **"seem right."** They are: **1) God loves you, 2) Christ died for you, 3) God wants to save you, but 4) He won't unless you "do your part."** However, these four teachings are only **half-truths**, and they are taking people down the path to ruin. There's an old saying- **half-truths are the blackest of lies!** This article will sort out what is **false** and what is **true** about how to enter heaven by **God's Grace**.

There is nothing more **important** or **urgent** than knowing where you will spend eternity! To better understand this vital subject, this article will begin with some **bad news** about how our sinfulness can impact our eternal destiny in the worst possible way. Then, it will explain how **God's Grace** transforms bad news into **Good News!**

If your salvation depended in any way on **you "doing your part" (which it doesn't)**, the requirements might include: accepting Christ into your life as Lord and Savior, striving to keep the Ten Commandments, performing good works, attending church, being baptized, and participating in sacraments. However, doing your best to obey any or all of these things does not qualify a person for heaven. **Why is that?**

Because even our best efforts to gain God's eternal acceptance fall drastically short. In Matthew 5:48, Jesus set forth **God's holy standard- *"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** This wasn't merely a suggestion. God is so uncompromisingly pure, and sin is so dreadfully offensive to His holy nature, that He will not tolerate even one sin to ever be in His presence. Tragically, most people believe that He will be more lenient. They assume that when they die, He will weigh their good deeds against the bad, and if the good outweighs the bad, they will be welcomed into heaven. **Not true.** Galatians 3:10 gives this sober warning- **"Cursed (deserving of hell) ***is everyone who does not continue to do everything*** (perfectly) ***in the book of the law.***" Because God requires us to be blameless on judgment day, **we desperately need a Savior to cancel all of our sin debts!****

Man's sin problem can be traced back to the fact that, as descendants of Adam, we have all inherited a **sinful nature** that is naturally inclined toward wrongdoing. How sinful does God say that we are? Jeremiah 17:9 tells us - ***"The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked..."*** Isaiah 64:6 declares- ***"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and (even) all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."***

This means that no matter how good or sincere our actions appear to us, they are **filthy rags** in God's sight because they fall **far short** of His holy standard of perfection. The bible makes it clear that **no one** can rightly be called a "good person" because Romans 3:10 states- ***"There is none who does good, no, not one."*** The depth of our corruption is described in Genesis 6:5- ***"The Lord saw...that every inclination of the thoughts of his (mankind's) heart was evil, all the time."*** In other words, we don't just sin occasionally; we are all **full-time sinners!**

Most people, however, mistakenly believe that they are only part-time sinners. If someone were to tell them that the Bible describes them as full-time sinners, they would probably say, "I'm not that bad!" But if we were honest with ourselves, we must admit that we continually disobey God and stubbornly choose our ways instead of His. God's word makes it clear that the consequences of our rebellion are severe. Isaiah 59:2 warns- ***"Your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God."*** Unless Christ removes this barrier, that separation will last for all eternity!

There is only one way to escape eternal destruction: our sins must be **completely removed** through the blood that Jesus shed when He died on the cross. However, the **complete forgiveness** that flows from Christ's substitutionary death is only granted to those who **sincerely admit two fundamental truths about themselves**. These truths are summarized in Romans 5:6- ***"...when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."*** Has God revealed to you that you are **spiritually powerless** and **completely corrupt**? If He has, you are among those for whom Christ died to give you His Grace, forgiveness, and an eternal inheritance!

God, in His great mercy, saves sinners who recognize that, compared to His perfect holiness, even their best efforts are no better than filthy rags. When a person arrives at the same humbling realization about himself that the apostle Paul expresses in Romans 7:18- ***"I know that nothing good dwells in me..."*** when this happens, God will reveal this joyful truth found in Romans 5:20- ***"Where sin abounded, Grace did much more abound!"*** Those who have come to believe that they are **full-time sinners** do not merely have the **potential** to be saved; they discover that their salvation has **already taken place!** It was fully and finally accomplished at the cross when Jesus declared- ***"It is finished!"*** (John 19:30)

While Christ was still hanging on the cross, **their guilt** was **transferred to Him**, and **His perfection** was **credited to them!** It may seem too good to be true, but at that very moment, God supernaturally transformed **spiritually bankrupt, helpless beggars** into **perfect saints!** Now, when God looks upon them, He considers them to be **just as sinless** as Christ Himself! As 2 Corinthians 5:21 declares- ***"He made Him (Christ) who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God (perfect) in Him."***

Most religion is bad news that pretends to be “good news.” Most preachers talk out of both sides of their mouths because they **say** that salvation is “completely by grace,” but **they quickly add** that there are certain conditions that must be met to receive it. **False!** Jesus accomplished everything that God requires over 2,000 years ago! If you go to heaven, it **won't** be because of **this plan: God + You doing your part.** That plan (while it may “**seem right**”) leads to **spiritual death** and **eternal separation** from God. (Read Rev. 20:11-15) If you enter heaven, it would only be **if** the **Father predestined** you (see final paragraphs), and **gave** you to **Christ to die** for you, and **if** the **Holy Spirit** furnished you with **His saving faith.**

Perhaps you're wondering- “How can I obtain the **saving faith** that will deliver me from sin's awful penalty and **guarantee** my entrance into heaven? Romans 10:17 states, ***“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”*** Faith is a **gift** that God sends down from heaven to those who receptively **hear** preaching about **His Grace** from God's Word. 1 Corinthians 1:21 states- ***“The world by (its own) wisdom, (what “seems right”), knew not God, it pleased God by the ‘foolishness’ of preaching to save them that believe...”***

Our sinful souls will never be saved unless God opens our hearts to **hear true preaching** from His Word. What is **true preaching?** True preaching focuses on Christ's **completely successful achievement** on the cross. In what way was it **completely successful?** In John 6:39, Jesus stated His mission: ***“This is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those He has given me, but raise them up at the last day.”***

To save those His Father chose beforehand, Christ took upon Himself the full equivalent of eternal hell as their substitute on the cross. And He has promised to raise **each of them** up to **eternal glory.** Hebrews 9:28 says- ***“Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many, and He will appear a second time...to bring salvation.”*** Notice that this verse does not say that Christ died to take away the sins of **all mankind**; it says that He was sacrificed to take away the sins of **many.** Christ only died for a **specific group of people, those that the Father gave Him,** not all of humanity.

In Matthew 1:21, an angel appeared to Joseph, the father of Jesus, and prophesied, ***“He (Jesus) shall save His people (not everyone to ever live) from their sins.”*** Did He do it? Did He keep the promise that He made to His Father- ***“I shall lose none?”*** If Christ's death merely made salvation “possible” for all but did not actually secure it for anyone, He would not have been a **completely successful Savior.**

But if Christ died to successfully save those His Father had chosen in eternity past, **“His people,”** then the answer is **yes!** When He cried from the cross- ***“It is finished!”*** that meant that He **finished the job** of saving every single person He came to die for. As the **God-Man** who **cannot fail,** Jesus also fulfilled the rest of the

angel's prophecy- ***"His name shall be called Immanuel...God with us!"***

True preaching never teaches that Christ's death only saved **some** of those His Father chose before time began, while the rest of **"His people,"** were lost because they failed to **"do their part."** If **even one person** for whom Christ died ends up in hell, His death would **not have been** a complete success; it would have been a **tragic failure!** It would be utterly unjust for God to punish the sins of **His people twice: once** when Jesus suffered hell's terrible punishment for those His Father gave Him, and then a **second time** if God punished **His people** for the **same sins** in hell!

Good News! Anyone who trusts **Christ alone** will be accepted into **heaven!** Hebrews 7:25 declares- ***"He is able to save forever those who come to God through Him."*** Sadly, most churches do not preach salvation by **Christ alone** with no contribution from man. But Ephesians 2:8-9 declares- ***"For it is by Grace you are saved through faith- and this (grace, salvation, faith) is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."*** Most people have fallen into the trap of believing the most **spiritually disastrous** of all lies. The lie is this: that what Christ accomplished on the cross is not enough; there is still something **we** must do for salvation to take effect. If that were true, man could take some credit for his salvation, but God will never allow that!

The bible teaches **Predestination**. Predestination means that **God** chose who would be saved **before they were even born**. Jesus explained this to His disciples when He declared - ***"You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained (predestined) you..."***(John 15:16). And Ephesians 1:4-5 reveals **when** God made this choice- ***"He chose us in Him, before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love, having predestined us..."*** God has chosen to give His **Grace** to those He **predestined** in eternity past.

Reader, would you like to know if you are one of **"His people"** that Christ **successfully saved** when He died on the cross over 2000 years ago? There is only **one way** to be sure. You must make it your highest priority to **hear preaching** that proclaims God's **completely successful, predestinating Grace**. Very few churches proclaim **true Grace**. **Todds Road Grace Church** in Lexington, KY, unapologetically proclaims this message in our church meetings, on our TV and radio broadcasts, as well as on our website- toddsrroadgracechurch.com. Many of the Grace messages by our Pastor, Todd Nibert, can also be found on **YouTube**. The times when these messages can be heard are at the very bottom of this page and on the home page. **We warmly encourage you to come and hear for yourself!**