

God's Grace has the power to completely transform our lives; however, there is often confusion about **how** God extends His **Free Grace** to undeserving sinners like us. In the Bible, Proverbs 14:12 tells us- **"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 answer this question, this article will begin with some **bad news** about how our sinfulness affects our eternal future. Then, it will explain **how God's Grace** transforms this **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."** Many people, however, believe that God is more lenient. They imagine that He will weigh their good deeds against the bad ones, and if the good outweighs the bad, they will be welcomed into heaven. **That is not true.** According to James 2:10- **"Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point, is guilty of breaking all of it."** On Judgment Day, even a single act of disobedience will carry the same weight as breaking **all** of God's commandments. Galatians 3:10 warns- **"Cursed** (deserving of hell) **is everyone who does not continue to do everything (perfectly) in the book of the law."** Each and every one of our sins has eternal consequences! **We desperately need a Savior to cancel all of our sin debts!**

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 we believe our actions to be, they are still considered **filthy rags** in God's sight because they fall **far short** of His holy standard of perfection. In reality, **no one** can be described as a "good person" because Romans 3:10 states- **"There is none who does good, no, not one."** And the full extent of our deep corruption is summed up in Genesis 6:5, which says- **"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; God, in His perfect holiness, views us as **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 regularly disobey God and stubbornly choose our own ways instead of His. God's word clearly states 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, and He has given you **His Grace** and **Forgiveness!**

God, in His great mercy, saves sinners who recognize that in light of His perfect holiness, even their best efforts are no better than filthy rags in His sight. It is only when a person reaches the same humbling conclusion that was expressed by the apostle Paul in Romans 7:18- **"I know that nothing good dwells in me..."** that God graciously reveals the 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 on 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."**

God is infinitely holy. 1 Timothy 6:16 states that He **"dwells in unapproachable light."** The only way we can ever stand before the glorious light of His presence is if Christ has given us **His perfect righteousness!**

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 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 Revelations 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 chose** to provide you with **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 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 doesn't 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 the Father gave Him,"** not all of humanity.

In Matthew 1:21, an angel appeared to Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, to deliver this prophecy- **"He (Jesus) shall save His people from their sins."** Did He do it? Did He keep the promise 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** sinners that His Father had chosen in eternity past,

"His people," then the answer is **yes!** When Christ 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 angel's prophetic words- **"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 others are 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 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 chooses to give His **Grace** to those He has **predestined**.

Reader, would you like to know if you are one of **"His people"** that Christ **successfully saved** when He died on the cross 2000+ years ago? There is only **one way** you can 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 shares this message in our church meetings, on YouTube, TV, radio, and our website- **toddsrroadgracechurch.com**. 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!**