

**God's Grace** has the power to completely change our lives, but there is often confusion about **how** God gives 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 transforms 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 destruction. 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**.

Because our lives are **so fragile**, and **so brief**, each of us must ask this question- Where am I going to spend eternity when I die? 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?**

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. When God examines a person's life on judgment day, sin is so offensive to His holy nature, He will not allow a person who has even one unforgiven sin to be in His presence.

Most people however, imagine that God will be more lenient. They assume that He will weigh out their good deeds against the bad, and if the good outweighs the bad, they will enter heaven. **Not true.** Galatians 3:10 warns- "**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 **sinless** on judgment day, **we desperately need a Savior to cancel all of our sin debts!**

Our 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 we believe our actions to be, they are **filthy rags** in God's sight because they fall **far short** of His holy standard of perfection. Romans 3:10 makes it clear that **no one** can describe themselves as "good person" "**There is none who does good, no, not one.**" And 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 mistakenly believe they are only **part-time sinners**. If someone told them that the bible declares that they are **full-time sinners**, they would probably protest, "I'm not that bad!" Yet if we were honest, we would have to admit that we regularly **do our own thing** in stubborn disobedience to God's wishes. The prophet Isaiah warns of the dreadful consequence of our rebellion: "**Your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God**" (Isaiah 59:2). 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 given 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.**" Isaiah 64:6 aptly describes our problem- "**all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.**" Has God shown you that you are **spiritually powerless** and **totally corrupt?** If He has, you are among those for whom Christ died so that you may have God's **Grace** and **Forgiveness!**

God will only show His mercy to **ungodly sinners** who have come to the realization that, in light of His perfect holiness, even their very best efforts to do good are no better than **filthy rags**. It is only when a person reaches the same humbling conclusion the apostle Paul did, when he confessed- "**I know that nothing good dwells in me**" (Romans 7:18), only then will God graciously reveal the joyful truth found in Romans 5:20: "**Where sin abounded, Grace did much more abound!**"

Those who admit that **everything** they do is **fatally flawed**, because they have a **desperately wicked** sin nature, will make an astonishing discovery: they don't just have the "potential" to be saved, they find out that it has already been accomplished! It happened 2000+ years ago, when Jesus shouted from the cross- **It is finished!**

While Christ was hanging on that cross, the guilt of full-time sinners was **transferred to Him**, and **His perfection** was **credited to them**. It may seem too good to be true, but at that moment, God supernaturally transformed **spiritually bankrupt 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." And most preachers talk out of both sides of their mouth, because they **say** that salvation is "completely by grace," but then they quickly add that there are certain conditions that must be met in order to receive God's forgiveness. **Not True!** 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 Revelations 20:11-15) If you enter heaven, it will only be **if the Father predestined** you (see final paragraphs), and **gave** you to **Christ** to **die** for you, and **if the Holy Spirit** provided 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 sinners whom He has caused to be willing to **hear** preaching about **Grace** from God's Word. 1 Corinthians 1:21- "**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 Himself opens our hearts to **hear true, Grace preaching.** What is **Grace** preaching? It is preaching that declares that Christ successfully saved a specific group of undeserving sinners to be holy and blameless in His sight. John 6:39, clearly states who Christ came to save: "**This is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those He (His Father) has given me, but raise them up at the last day.**

In order to save those His Father has predestined, 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 declares- "**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 for **all mankind**, it says that He was sacrificed to take away the sins of **many**. Christ **didn't die for everyone**, He died for **the many** His Father had chosen!

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** each person His Father had chosen in eternity

past- **"His people,"** then the answer is **yes!** When Jesus cried from the cross- ***It is finished!*** that meant that He had **finished the job** of saving **each person** His Father had intended for Him to save. If Christ had died for all, all would be saved!

**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 ended up in hell, His death would **not** have been a **complete success**; it would have been a **tragic failure**, because 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 had chosen**, 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 isn't 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 only give His **Grace** to those whom 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 proclaims this message in our church meetings, on our TV and radio broadcasts, on YouTube, and on our website- **toddsroadgracechurch.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!**