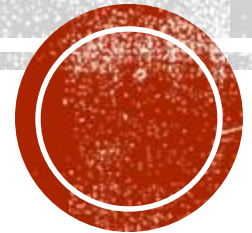


SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

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EPHESIANS 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”



SALVATION FROM SIN COMES BY GOD'S "GRACE" AND THROUGH MAN'S "FAITH."

- Grace is God's part; faith is man's part.
 - Since salvation is by grace, no person can boast because God had to intervene to offer spiritual re-creation after what man brought to himself through sin (**Eph. 2:1**).
 - Without God's grace, man's faith would be useless because salvation is only possible because of what God has done for mankind in offering re-creation through His grace (**Gal. 6:14-16**).



SALVATION (NOT MAN'S FAITH) IS "THE GIFT OF GOD."

- Some (Calvinists) contend that the "gift of God" is faith. They say God opens the hearts of sinners through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit and grants sinners faith.
- It is true that God and the Holy Spirit operate in the salvation of sinners, but this indirectly occurs through the word of God (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**), and neither God nor the Holy Spirit directly give (gift) mankind the faith to believe/obey the scriptures.
- God does not give man faith, He gives man the gift of salvation (**Rom. 6:23**).
 - God has offered His grace, and this gracious offering should drive people to have faith and be saved.



MAN MUST POSSESS A SPECIFIC FAITH TO BE SAVED.

- Sinners avail themselves to the benefits of God's grace via faith (**Rom. 5:1-2**).
- God's gift of salvation is conditioned upon man's obedient faith (**Heb. 5:9**).
 - Faith is the sinner's response to God's grace, and saving faith obeys God's word (**John 3:36; Heb. 11:8; James 2:14, 17, 24**).
 - Saving faith involves conviction followed/supported by compliance.



STRESSING OBEDIENCE DOES NOT CHEAPEN THE GIFT

- When a person acts through faith to obtain the gift of God, he has not cheapened or earned the unmerited gift of God granted by His grace.
- Instead, the person is acting upon his faith in order to receive God's gift and is simply “doing” what God requires in order to obtain the gift (**Matt. 7:21; Luke 17:10; Acts 2:37, 9:6, 22:10**).



MAN IS NOT SAVED BY GRACE ALONE OR FAITH ALONE

- If salvation is by grace only, every person will be saved even though the Bible teaches that all people will not be saved (**Matt. 7:13-14**).
 - Unbelievers will not be saved, regardless of God's grace (**John 8:24**).
- If salvation is by faith only, all believers will be saved even though the Bible teaches that all believers will not be saved (**Matt. 7:21-23**).
 - Believers who refuse to obey will be lost eternally (**John 12:42-43; James 2:19**), and formerly obedient believers who turn back to the world and do not repent will be lost eternally (**James 5:19-20**).



PEOPLE ARE NEITHER SAVED BY WORKS OF THE LAW NOR WORKS OF MAN

- Salvation does not come from works of the Law of Moses (**Rom. 3:28, 4:1-12**).
- Likewise, salvation does not come from works of man's own righteousness either (**Tit. 3:4-5**).
- Though man is not saved by works of the Law of Moses or his own works, we are, however, saved by performing the various works of God (**John 6:28-29; Luke 17:3; Mark 16:16; James 2:14-26; etc.**).



RETAINING SALVATION IS DEPENDENT ON CONTINUALLY ABOUNDING IN THE WORKS OF GOD

- Good works are the required result of the new creation, not the cause of the new creation (**Tit. 2:14, 3:8**).
- These works have been a part of God's plan from the very beginning (**Eph 2:10**).
 - God preordained not only the original call and justification of sinners through Christ but also predestined the works those reborn would perform (**Tit. 2:11-12**).
- Ultimately, our works determine whether we know God and belong to Him or deny Him and stand separated from Him (**Tit. 1:16, 2:7, 3:14; Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12**).
- If we are not living a life of good works after being reborn (**John 3:3-5**), we have no reason to believe we are still saved by God's grace.
 - **BUT**, even if we have done all God has commanded, we must not forget that we are still unworthy servants (**Luke 17:7-10**).

