

THE RESULTS OF SALVATION

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-7

Upon belief of the gospel, we are saved from condemnation and assured of eternal life in heaven. However, there is much more that a believer has upon salvation. Just as salvation is given by God's grace, so the accompanying blessings are bestowed by God's grace. He has indeed "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3b).

In the next few articles we will look at what the Scriptures state that a believer is:

1. A part of God's eternal purpose-- The moment we are saved we are made a member of the church, which is the Body of Christ, "that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).
2. Reconciled to God-- As far as God is concerned all barriers have been eliminated. We have been drawn nigh to God because the Lord Jesus has taken away the obstacle between man and God. That obstacle was sin (See II Corinthians 5:18-21).
3. Forgiven-- All sins, past, present, and future have been forever forgiven. "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses" (Colossians 2:13).
4. No longer condemned-- The unbeliever is condemned already. (John 3:18) However, the believer has all condemnation removed. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

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Notes:

THE RESULTS OF SALVATION (CONTINUED)

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1

As a result of being saved, the believer is:

5. Justified-- To be justified is to be declared righteous in God's sight. The moment we believe we are justified before God. We have been "justified by faith" (Romans 5:1). This justification was procured by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. We have been "justified by His blood" (Romans 5:9). All of this was made possible by God's amazing grace. We have been "justified freely by His grace" (Romans 3:24).
6. Sanctified-- We have been permanently set apart unto God in our Lord Jesus Christ. He purchased us and we belong to Him (I Corinthians 1:30).
7. Made fit for heaven-- In ourselves we are totally unfit for heaven. Only God could make us fit for heaven. He has "made us meet (fit) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:12b)
8. Made accepted-- Our own righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) and is not acceptable to God. But by His grace we are made acceptable in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:6).
9. Made the righteousness of God-- "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).
10. Sons of God-- We have been made the sons of God with all its privileges through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26).

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Notes:

THE RESULTS OF SALVATION (CONTINUED)

Scripture Reading: Romans 7:6

Upon believing we are:

11. Delivered from the law-- The law condemns sin and the sinner. In Christ Jesus we are "delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held" (Romans 7:6a).
12. Delivered from the power of darkness-- The power (authority) of darkness is Satan. We have been delivered from Satan and his authority over us (Colossians 1:13).
13. Translated into the kingdom of His Son-- Not only were we delivered from Satan and his authority, but we were translated (transferred) into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and under His authority (Colossians 1:13).
14. Complete in Him-- In this world the unbeliever is incomplete. That is why he is ever searching for pleasures and thrills to fill this void. The believer is complete (made full) in Christ (Colossians 2:9-10).
15. His inheritance-- As trophies of His grace the believer becomes a part of God's inheritance (Ephesians 1:18).
16. Partakers of His inheritance-- As members of the Body of Christ, the believer becomes joint-heirs with Christ and partakers of His promise (Ephesians 3:6, Romans 8:17).
17. Seated in the heavenlies-- The believer has a position of honor and privilege at the right hand of God. He has "raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace..." (Ephesians 2:6b,7a).

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Notes:

THE RESULTS OF SALVATION (CONTINUED)

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:7

As a result of receiving the free gift of salvation the believer is:

18. A citizen of heaven-- The believer is a foreigner in this world. That is the reason we are called upon to be ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:20). "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).
19. Redeemed-- The Lord Jesus came with sufficient price for our sins, His own precious blood, and purchased out of the slave market of sin, in order that He might set us free (Ephesians 1:7).
20. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit-- "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5b). "But we are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be the Spirit of God dwell in you" (Romans 8:9a).

These are just a few of the blessings God has given to the believer. All these blessings are bestowed instantaneously upon the believer by God's grace. There is not one thing we can do to earn them nor is there any way we could repay God. For more examples see "Systematic Theology," Vol. III by Lewis Sperry Chafer and "Grace" by the same author.

We need to look at some of these terms in more detail. The following lessons will help us do this.

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GRACE*Scripture Reading: Romans 5:21*

The first word we will consider is "GRACE." All that we have in Christ is by God's grace. Though grace is simple to believe, it is more difficult to understand. The characteristic of God's dealing since the cross is grace. Grace is now reigning. Where sin had at one time reigned, now grace reigns, through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5:21). Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Romans 5:20). Grace overcame sin and death. Grace is the characteristic word for this present dispensation in which we are living. The apostle Paul was willing to lay down his life for this wonderful message of God's grace. "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

The characteristic way God is dealing with men, though we do not deserve it, is by grace. It is because of the finished work on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and what He accomplished there, that God now deals with mankind in grace. Grace is not some commodity that can be measured or portioned. Grace must be understood as an attitude in which God is dealing with the world. We have salvation and all the accompanying blessings by God's grace.

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*Notes:***GRACE (CONTINUED)***Scripture Reading: Titus 2:11*

In the Bible the Greek word translated grace is "charis." In secular Greek, grace was the property of an act that inspired joy, beauty, and gracefulness. It came to mean the act itself - the grace, the favor, or the goodness. The act of doing something beautiful became the grace. It was a favor done without expectation of return. A simple definition of grace is unmerited favor. But grace is much more than this. Mercy can be unmerited favor. Grace is receiving from God that which we do not deserve. Mercy is not receiving from God that which we do deserve. God is merciful and loving. His righteousness cannot tolerate sin. Sin is between man and God. God loves the sinner and would be merciful to us. But He cannot be merciful to the sinner at the expense of His own righteousness. So God acted in His grace and sent His Son to pay for sin, and to take care of consequences of sin, forever. Now He can be merciful to the believer because sin has been taken out of the way.

It is by the grace of God that the best as well as the worst and every shade in between are saved. There can be no salvation from the penalty, dominion, or presence of sin apart from the God of grace and the grace of God. With the apostle Paul we can say "But by the grace of God I am what I am..." (I Corinthians 15:10a).

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Notes:

GRACE (CONTINUED)*Scripture Reading: Romans 11:6*

To better understand grace we can look at what grace is in contrast to:

1. Grace is the opposite of debt (Romans 4:4-5). Debt is what someone owes. God is not in debt to anyone. He does not owe us anything. The world not only fell into sin, but murdered the only One who can forgive sin (the Lord Jesus Christ). If I could do anything to earn salvation, then God would owe it to me. That would be the opposite of grace. If I work for wages - the wages are due as debt. But this cannot be applied to salvation. No one ever obtained righteousness by worth or work. Grace then is God giving to the sinner, completely undeserved, salvation. Whatever God gives us is not out of debt, but out of the good heartedness of the Giver.

2. Grace is the opposite of works (Romans 11:6). Works are what man does in an attempt to please God. If a man is saved by grace, then he cannot contribute one thing to his salvation. The minute one tries to add one work, as a requirement for salvation, he frustrates the grace of God. It is either all works or all grace. For if we add works to grace, it isn't grace anymore. This is perhaps the most direct and absolute contrast in Scripture. Grace is God acting according to His purpose. Work is man seeking to present to God a human ground for His blessing.

*JB**Notes:***GRACE (CONTINUED)***Scripture Reading: Romans 6:14*

Grace is the opposite of debt and works and it is also the opposite of law.

3. Grace is opposite of the law (Romans 6:14). The law stands for all man can and should do to meet God's righteous standard. Grace is the opposite. It is not what man does for God, but what God has done for man, in His grace. Grace takes away works legalism. We are not under law today, but under grace.

In summary: Grace is the opposite of debt -- God does not owe us anything. Grace is the opposite of works you cannot obtain righteousness through good works. Grace is opposite of law -- you cannot keep the law to be saved.

We aren't saved because of who we are or what we have done. We are saved by grace. Grace is freely bestowed apart from man's efforts. The believer is under the grace of God and because of this, sin is defeated. Grace is based upon and displayed by the finished work of Christ.

Grace is a way of life. We live under grace. (Romans 7:5,6) Upon this basis, sin shall not have dominion over the believer, for we are not under law, but under grace. Grace is receiving from God that which we do not deserve freely out of the love and good heartedness of the Giver. Everything we have is by God's grace - justification, redemption, salvation, hope, glorification, etc. We should thank God every day for His grace.

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