

# “*SOLA GRATIA*”

## GRACE ALONE

- God’s grace alone is the only reason we are not still dead in our trespasses and sins, deceived by false thinking (“but for the grace of God ...”)
- God’s grace is the sole source, not only of our eternal life, but of every breath we take and our life in general – we owe all to His grace alone
- We who believe so strongly in grace must show that same grace to others

## Colossians 4:2-6 (NASB95)

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*; praying ... that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ ... that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with **grace**, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”

## 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

But in your hearts set apart [ESV “honor ... as holy”] Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness and respect**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

## John 1 (ESV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth ...

16 And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- **Why is this study necessary?**
- Jude 3 says it is our duty to “contend earnestly for the faith” (this is not just the job of pastors)
- Most of Jude’s epistle warns against false teaching and its specific errors and characteristics
- Jude 4 warns of those who “**pervert the grace of God** ... and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ”
- What would be examples of this in our day that we are to contend against **in grace** and truth?

# JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

*Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*

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## ***IN THEIR OWN WORDS ...***

- “It is for the reward of eternal life that every last person on earth should now be working. Are you?”  
(*Watchtower*, Aug 15, 1972, p. 492)
- “To get one’s name written in that book of life will depend upon one’s works, whether they are in fulfillment of God’s will and approved by his Judge and King” (*Watchtower*, Jul 1, 1947, p. 204)

# JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

*Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*

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## ***IN THEIR OWN WORDS ...***

- “[T]he second requirement ... is to *obey God’s laws ...*

A third requirement is that we *be associated with*

*God’s channel, his organization ...* To receive

everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must

identify that organization and serve God as part of it.

The fourth requirement ... requires that prospective

subjects of his Kingdom support his government by

*loyally advocating his Kingdom rule to others* [that is,

door-to-door]” (*Watchtower*, Feb 15, 1983, pp. 12-12)

# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

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## ***IN THEIR OWN WORDS ...***

- “It is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (*Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 25:23*)
- “... individual salvation or rescue from the effects of personal sins is to be acquired by each for himself, by faith and good works ... redemption from personal sins can only be obtained through obedience to the requirements of the gospel, and a life of good works” (*Articles of Faith, p. 476, 478-79*)



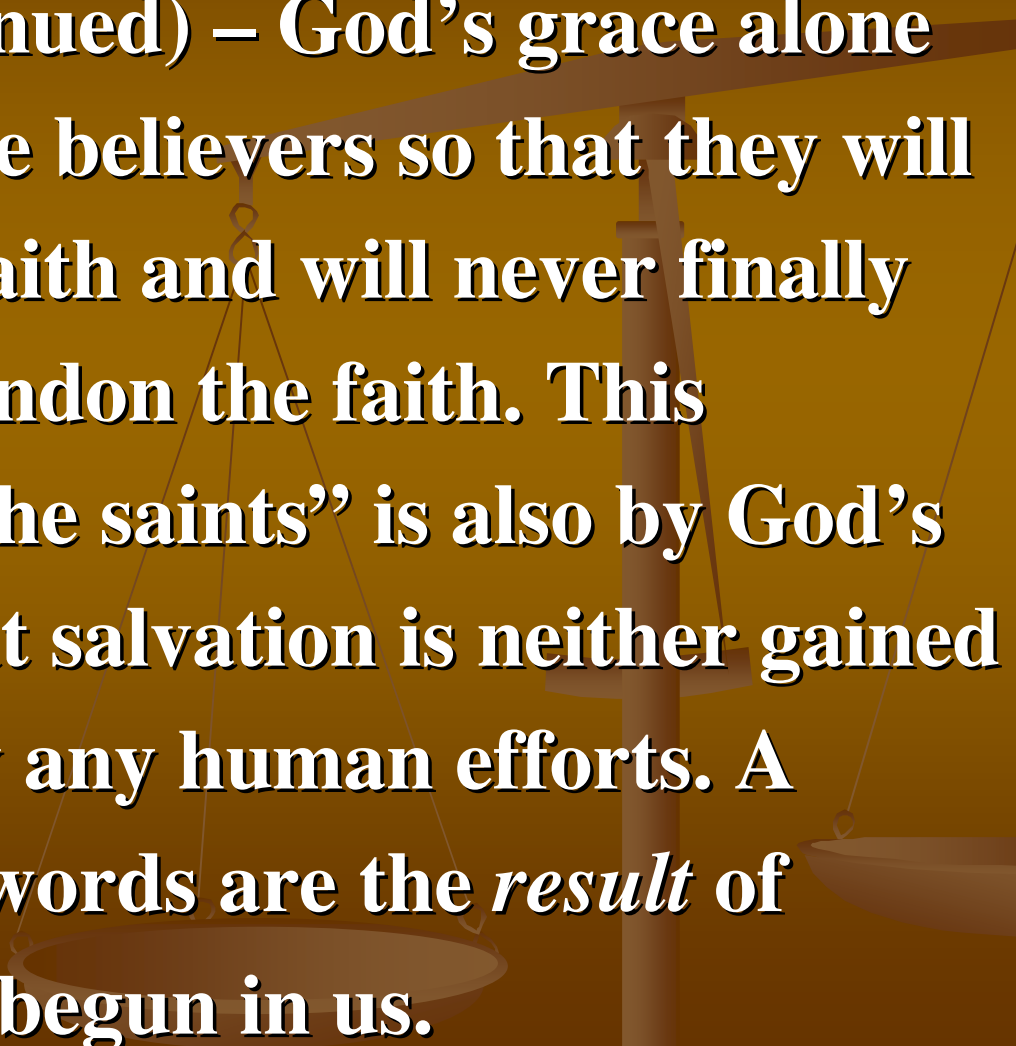
# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

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- *Sola Gratia* – Salvation is by grace alone, the unmerited undeserved unearned favor and kindness of God toward sinners. Salvation is not in any way or in any part produced or preserved by man's works, will, effort, or anything inherent in man. Salvation is not by God's grace *plus* any human achievement, but it's solely by the sovereign grace of Divine accomplishment.

# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

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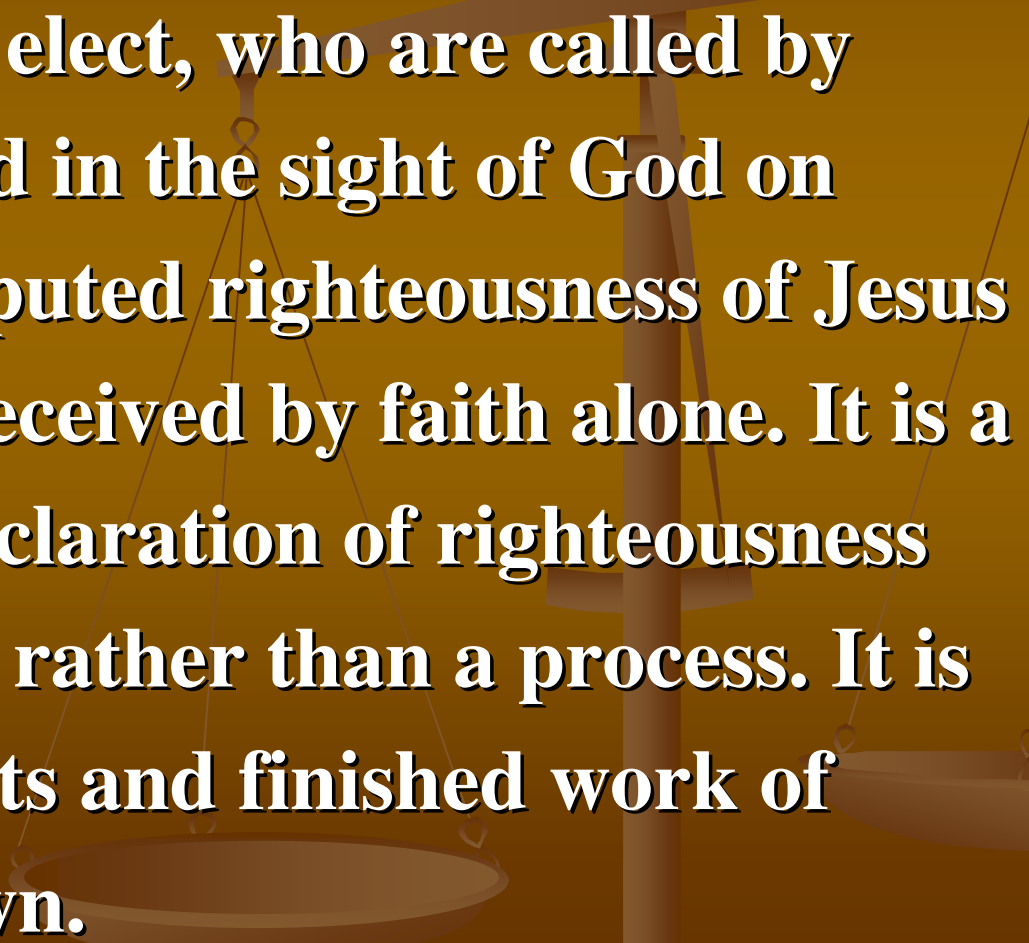
- *Sola Gratia* (continued) – God’s grace alone also preserves true believers so that they will persevere in the faith and will never finally fall away and abandon the faith. This “preservation of the saints” is also by God’s grace alone so that salvation is neither gained *nor maintained* by any human efforts. A Christian’s good words are the *result* of God’s good work begun in us.
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# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

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- *Sola Fide* – Faith Alone receives God's gift.

We believe God's elect, who are called by grace, are justified in the sight of God on account of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is received by faith alone. It is a forensic (legal) declaration of righteousness at a point in time, rather than a process. It is based on the merits and finished work of Christ, not our own.



**You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness;**

**but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

***2 Peter 3:17-18 NASB***

