

SALVATION BY THE BOOK!
PART 1-WHAT'S GRACE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
EPHESIANS 2:8-10

THE BIBLE REVEALS THAT SALVATION IS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH AND NOT OF WORKS!

I. THE FACT OF GRACE!

The Bible Is Clear That SALVATION IS BY GRACE!

Twice in this same Chapter Paul mentions this very truth! (see vs. 4-6)

See also **Romans 3:23-25**

Many have attempted to define and illustrate the word "*Grace*" as used in the Bible.

I grew up in church and have heard many times the acrostic used: That "*grace*" is "**God's Riches At Christ's Expense.**"

That is a fairly accurate portrayal of word "*grace*".

Understand that the very word grace here is translated from the Greek word "*Charis*" which means "*graciousness of manner or act especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life;*"

The word "*grace*" when studied in the context of our salvation means that **a gift has been given, but more than a gift!**

The word "*gift*" in Vs 8 means "*a present*" but specifically, it means "*an offering or sacrifice.*"

Additionally , the word "*grace*" has a richer meaning than the fact that a gift has been bestowed and an offering or sacrifice has been made. **It means that something has been given which causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favor, and acceptance!**

All of that we received in Christ!

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I've heard the story of John Newton many times. John Newton is the writer of one of our most beloved hymns, *Amazing Grace*. He was formerly the vile captain of a slave ship!

But John Newton got gloriously saved! And unlike so many today, he never took lightly the fact of his conversion. He said, "*People stare at me and well they may. I am indeed a wonder to many, and a wonder to myself. Especially I wonder that I wander no more.*"

God had miraculously saved John Newton from his life of sin just God did for each of us that are truly born again!

Like Newton, we must never take grace and our salvation for granted!

A. Grace Is Not A Matter Of Boasting In What We Have Done For God But Rather What God Has Done For Us, In Us, And Through Us!

1 Corinthians 15:10--"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

B. We Should Continually Thank God That He Deals With Us From The Aspect Of His Great Grace Rather Than By What We Were And Are Or By What We Deserve!

C. If Ever We Think For One Moment That We Deserve God's Grace, Then We Show That We Really Don't Know The True Meaning Of The Word!

D. Grace Is Not A Matter Of Merit (That Is, It Is Not Earned) But Rather It Is Undeserved! It Is A Gift!

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THE FACT OF GRACE!

II. THE ACT OF GRACE!

The act of grace, by both the definition of the word and by examination of the Scripture is threefold.

Webster defines "grace" as:

- 1) The unmerited love and favor of God toward man.
(i.e. What God did FOR US!)
- 2) Divine influence acting in man.
(i.e. What God does IN US!)
- 3) The condition of a person thus influenced.
(i.e. What God does THROUGH US!)

A. Grace Is What God Does For Us?--He Loves Us With A Sacrificial Love!

We are saved by God's grace! (Ephesians 2:4-5; 8-9)

(Ephesians 1:3-7--The riches of His grace)

John 3:16--"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

1 John 3:9--"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

A. W. Tozer said this, *"From God's other known attributes we may learn much about his love. We can know, for instance, that because God is self-existent, his love had no beginning; because he is eternal, his love can have no end; because he is infinite, it has no limit; because he is holy, it is the quintessence of all spotless purity; because he is immense, his love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea before which we kneel in joyful silence and from which the loftiest eloquence retreats confused and abashed."*

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Hymn – *"The Love of God"* (by Frederick H. Lehman)
"Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made, Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade, To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry, Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretch'd from sky to sky. Oh love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure, The saints' and angels' song."

Paul said in Ephesians 3:19 says that the Love of Christ *"passeth knowledge!"*

God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because God loves us!

If you want to see the value that God places on the soul of a man, look at Calvary!

Until we understand how wicked and vile we are, we will not understand God's love!

The Act Of Grace--What Is It?

A. *Grace Is What God Does For Us?--He Loves Us With A Sacrificial Love! We are saved by God's grace!*

B. Grace Is What God Does In Us?--He Changes Us Into His Glory!

We are sanctified by God's grace! (Ephesians 2:10)

2 Corinthians 3:18-- "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Philippians 2:13--"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

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He turned a group of fishermen into fishers of men!
He turned a tax collector (Zaccheus) from a servant of self into a servant of God!
He turned a persecutor of the Church (Saul) into a mighty preacher for the church! (The Apostle Paul)
He turned a denier of Christ (Peter) into a proclaimer for Christ!
He turned THIS old sinner from his old sinful ways to walk in His ways!

1 Cor. 15:10--"But by the grace of God I am what I am..."

Romans 8:29 says that God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of Jesus!

That process begins here and ends at the Judgment seat of Christ!

The Act Of Grace--What Is It?

- A. *Grace Is What God Does For Us?--He Loves Us With A Sacrificial Love! We are saved by God's grace!*
 - B. *Grace Is What God Does In Us?--He Changes Us Into His Glory! We are sanctified by God's grace!*
 - C. **Grace Is What God Does Through Us?--He Can Do Whatever He Pleases! We serve God by His grace! (Ephesians 2:10)**
God can make you anything He wants you to be!
There are no limitations with Him, if we will just yield our lives to Him!
God ministers grace to us! It is by grace that we minister His grace to others.
1. **God uses us to help others come to know Him!**

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2 Corinthians 5:18 says that ". . .*God hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*"

In verse 19 it says that God ". . .*hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*"

2. **God uses us as a showcase of His grace and glory!**
In my last Church I had a man who attended off and on that owned the ice cream shop in town.

He also restored Chris Craft Boats as a hobby. (Mahogany)

Those boats were a showcase of talents and God given abilities of that man.

When he would buy those boats, they had been neglected and abused and looked like pieces of junk. He would pay a price to buy them and refinish them and when he got finished with them, he loved to showcase them.

That, my friend, is a picture of what God did for us, in us and through us!

Romans 5:8--"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

3. **God uses us to glorify His name!**
Matthew 5:14-16--"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

THE FACT OF GRACE...THE ACT OF GRACE...

III. THE PACT OF GRACE! (Ephesians 2:8-9; Cf. Romans 3:21-22)

Grace is acquired through faith. Taking God at His Word.
Grace is acquired through receiving the gift that is provided.
Grace is not a wage, therefore it cannot be earned.
We all are undeserving, therefore grace cannot be merited.

IV. THE TACT OF GRACE!

God will not force you to accept His grace! He will not violate your own will to see you to heaven!

God has given us all that we need to insure that we can have His grace:

A. He Has Given Us His Son! (The Saviour)

B. He Has Given Us His Spirit! (The Holy Spirit of God)

John 16:8-11—"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

C. He Has Given Us His Sword! (The Word of God)

Hebrews 4:12—"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

D. He Has Given Us His Servants! (The Saints of God)

I am an ambassador of the King of kings and Lord of lords!
Every child of God is too!

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Conclusion

The Grace of God for Salvation is available and freely offered to you!—have you accepted it or rejected it? Won't you accept it today?

- A. He Loved You With A Sacrificial Love!
- B. He Wants To Save You And Then Change You Into His Glory!
- C. He Wants To Do His Good Pleasure In Your Life!

You can only receive this free Salvation by faith!

God's not going to force Himself upon you, but He has given you everything you need to come to him. Won't you come to Him today?

To live your life in rejection of His Salvation is to live with condemnation hanging over your head!

If you are saved—What are you doing to see that others know about the Grace of God that is available?