

## SAVED BY GRACE

### Ephesians 2:8-10

**Introduction:** The word "grace" in the Greek is very flexible in its meaning. It can mean no more than that which is attractive and therefore acceptable. The patient endurance of undeserved suffering is acceptable to God - *"...For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.."* (1 Peter 2:19-20). But in particular it is used of that attitude of God towards sinful men which moves Him to help instead of to condemn. Grace is love directed towards the unworthy, and taking action to help them. It is *"...grace to help in time of need..."* (Hebrews 4:16). This grace is especially seen in Jesus - it is of His grace that *"...that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor..."* (Galatians 1:15). Saved - *Ephesians 2:8-10*; renewed - *1 Corinthians 15:10* - given good hope - *2 Thessalonians 2:16* - sufficient for man - *2 Corinthians 12:9* - and it saves men from his sins.

Grace is given to the believer as help, strength and wisdom for the work that he/she has to do - *Romans 12:3*; *Ephesians 3:2-7*. The Christian must be watchful not to fall short of this grace or to fail to receive it. *Hebrews 12:15*.

### I. SALVATION IS ALTOGETHER OF GRACE

#### 1. It is so!

- Trace it to its first origin, when the plan of it was fixed in the council of peace between the Father and the Son - *Zachariah 6:13*. Who devised it? Who merited it? Who desired it? It was the fruit of God's grace and of grace alone.

- Trace it in all its parts - the gift of God's only begotten Son to be our surety and our substitute, the acceptance of His sacrifice in our behalf and the revelation of that mystery in the Bible - it is all of God.

#### 2. It must be so!

- Salvation must either be of grace or of works. the two cannot be mixed together or reconciled with each other. If it be of works in any degree, it is no more of grace - *"...and if by grace, then is it no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace, otherwise work is no more work..."* (Romans 11:6). *"...It is of faith, that it may be by grace..."* (Romans 4:16). This means that even the faith that we have is of the GRACE of God.

- Thus we hope that the point is clear - Salvation is altogether of grace from first to last. The plan of salvation as originally devised, the Savior who wrought it for us, the acceptance of His sacrifice in our behalf, and the faith whereby we are made partakers of His sacrifice are all the gifts of the GRACE of God.

### II. WORKS ARE EXCLUDED FROM SALVATION YET ARE STILL USEFUL

#### 1. God has ordained good works as the path wherein we (believers) are to walk.

- This is an unquestionable truth. The whole of the moral law demonstrates it. Every promise, every threatening in the whole Bible attests it. Not a word can be found in the whole Bible that dispenses with the performance of good works. On the contrary! It is expressly said that, *"...without holiness no man shall see the Lord..."* If there is no good works in us, it may be a sign that we have never been saved.

2. God has prepared and fitted His people to walk in good works.
  - God has given to His people a new nature and infused into their souls a new and heavenly principle by which they "*...have passed from death unto life...*" They have received from Christ "*..that living water, which is in them as a well of water springing up into everlasting life...*" (*John 4:14*). Under the influence of the Holy Ghost, they move in a new direction, affecting the things of the Spirit, as formerly they affected the things of the flesh. (*Romans 8:1-5*). They are created in Christ Jesus unto good works and the impulse given them in this new creation they obey. God, when He created the heavenly bodies, appointed them their respective paths in the regions of space. To each He gave its proper impulse, having previously fitted it for the performance of the revolutions assigned it, and in their respective orbits He has ever since upheld them, so that they all without exception fulfill the ends for which they were created.
  - Thus in the new creation, God has appointed to all their destined course through the vast expanse of moral and religious duty. He has also, at the time of its new creation, given to each soul the impulse necessary for it and He yet further, by His continua though invisible agency, preserves them in their appointed way. *Romans 9:23*.
3. Therefore upon the believer lies the obligation to serve and glorify his/her God.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Be it so! We are not saved by good works!
2. However is there not another motive you can find for the performance of good works? Do you not feel an obligation to Him who sent His only begotten Son into the world that YOU might live eternally through Him?
3. Saved by grace, live by doing good works while here.