

Saved by Grace Alone

Ephesians 2:8-1-

August 10, 2025

Overview: How God saves us. The channel through which He saves us. How He doesn't save us.

DAY 1: Saved by grace...

Eph. 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Eph. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works.

1. What is grace?
2. Grace is God's favor for the undeserving, at Christ's expense! Which of the three part's of this definition strike you the most?
 - a. God's favor?
 - b. The undeserving?
 - c. At Christ's expense?
3. Why?

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

4. Why do we need grace in order to be saved? In the following verses, underline each phrase which answers the question: "Why do we need grace in order to be saved?"

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

5. What phrase(s) stood out to you most?
6. Explain why this phrase stood out to you?
7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: ...saved through faith...

*Eph. 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you are saved, **through faith**—and this not from yourselves...*

1. How can sinful people like us be saved?
2. As we saw yesterday in Roman 3, no one can be saved by their own means or goodness. It is impossible. What alternative is there? Only one! God must do the saving!
3. But here is where the grace of almighty God comes in. The Lord Jesus Christ came to this world, which was weeping in its failure and sin, and he became the means by which an utterly hopeless situation was transformed. There is nothing in the bible to indicate that Jesus ever attempted to patch up fallen human nature. He did **not** come to *assist* us or *reform* us. He came to *recreate* us!
4. Then comes this question: will we believe that God can save us?

What Faith Isn't

1. Faith is not subjective feelings.
2. Faith Is Not credulity.

Credulity accepts something as true apart from evidence, simply because he or she earnestly wishes it to be true.

3. Faith is not optimism.

Faith is not synonymous with a positive mental attitude.

4. Faith is not just the *right* knowledge.

What Faith Is

1. Knowledge-based.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 ... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred ...

Faith is something that is based in fact. Faith is based in biblical facts about God and people.

2. Heart response.

James 2:17 ... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Faith is more than knowledge or intellectual assent to a list of facts. It is also a response to such knowledge.

John Calvin wrote, "The Word of God is not received by faith if it flits about in the top of the brain, but when it takes root in the depth of the heart that it may be an invincible defense to withstand the drive off all the stratagems of temptation."

3. Commitment change: sin is bad; following Christ is my future.

Faith means casting yourself on Christ, resting on His promises and accepting His finished work on your behalf.

What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: ...not from yourselves

*Eph. 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you are saved, through faith—and **this not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God—**not by works**, so that no one can boast.*

1. I have heard many people believe they are going to heaven. When I have chatted with them about how they knew that I have heard the following answers.

- a. “I know I’m not perfect...but I’m not that bad.” (deserving of hell).
- b. “My good outweighs my bad.”
- c. “I’m a good person.”
- d. “I believe in God”
- e. “I go to church”
- f. “I was raised in the church.”
- g. “I don’t need to go to church. I can worship God under a tree at the park.”
- h. “Hell is only for people like Hitler” (not somebody like me)

2. What is a common theme(s) to all of these answers?

3. How does Paul answer these back up in verse 8?

4. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: Salvation is a gift, not by works: no boasting

Eph. 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

“...it is the gift of God...”

1. The scriptures are abundantly clear, as is our passage for this week, that salvation is all of God’s work, and is a gift. In the verses that follow, jot down what each writer says about salvation:

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

“...so that no one can boast.”

Eph. 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. Our human pride wants to believe that we can save ourselves. Paul definitively asserts that saving ourselves is impossible. He says this in these verses with three phrases. Next to each jot down the importance of each phrase:

a. not from yourselves,

b. not by works,

c. so that no one can boast.

3. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 5: We are His workmanship—and His workers!

Eph. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works.

1. The Greek word for workmanship has different usages. It can be understood as a product, either figuratively or literally, something that is made, or someone's workmanship.

2. Once we are saved:

- God puts us in the artist's gallery, painting the character of Christ upon us,
- Takes the block of marble that we are and carves out a statue of Christlikeness,
- Takes the lump of clay we are and makes us into beautiful pottery reflecting the character of Christ.

3. God taught this very purpose of God to Jeremiah!

Jeremiah 18:3 So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me. ⁶ He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.

Eph. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works.

4. Though we are not saved by our good works, once we are saved we are created to do good works!

5. Our salvation is not an end in itself. Salvation is not just "for me and my family."

6. God puts us to work in His fields of lost people.

*Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "**The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.** ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, **to send out workers into his harvest field.**"*

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?