
Saved By Grace

Perhaps the greatest need among Christians today is for us to know, to experience, and to express the grace of God in our salvation. Here the Apostle Paul, in this famous text, describes for us this great truth.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The first thing we learn in verse 8 is that our salvation is by grace. That means that it is completely unearned and undeserved. The way in which we receive this grace is “through faith”; that is, we trust in Christ, not ourselves for our righteousness. Saving faith is comprised of three aspects: knowledge of the facts of the gospel, assent to the truth of the gospel, and trust in the Christ of the gospel. Lest we think we deserve applause for our faith, Paul makes it clear that everything, including our faith, is “the gift of God.” Even what we do in our salvation comes from God's grace. This is grace, indeed!

The second emphasis of the Apostle, in verse 9, is that our salvation is not of works. He stresses this because we are always prone to add our works to the grace of God—it's crazy, but we do it—we sometimes just can't believe the grace of the gospel. When we realize the unmitigated grace of our salvation, Paul says that boasting in ourselves comes to a total stop. We cease boasting of ourselves, and begin boasting in Christ alone.

The third major point the Apostle makes here (v.10) is that our salvation, although not by works, is for works. In fact, it is only through faith that good works are possible, because it is only through faith that we can serve the Lord with hearts of gratitude. This allows us to walk in a very different way than we once did (compare verses 1 and 10).

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it essential that we understand that we are saved solely by the grace of God, and not by our works?

2. Why do we sinful human beings have the tendency to try to add our good works to the grounds for our salvation? What's fundamentally wrong with that?

