

Saved By Grace

Introduction

1. **It is a fact that most denominations teach that “by grace we are saved by faith only.”**
 - A. **Most reach this conclusion based upon what is recorded in Ephesians 2:1-9.**
Ephesians 2:1-9
2. **However, let us take a moment and compare that with what James writes in James 2:14-26**
James 2:14-26
3. **This is very interesting. Could it be that Paul is wrong and James is right? Or, could it be that Paul is right and James is wrong?**
 - A. **OR, since the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God, could it be that the inspired writers Paul and James are both right?**
4. **Grace is “unmerited favor.”**
 - A. **Regardless of what we do, it is ONLY by the grace of God that we are saved.**
 - B. **However, I want us to understand, based upon the Word of God, that there are two sides to this salvation process.**

God’s Side

Isaiah 35:4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; **He will come and save you.**"

1. What God gave for man.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, **by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.**

A. How did He taste death for everyone?

- 1) **By being submissive to His Father and going to the cross to suffer a cruel crucifixion so that we can have an opportunity to be saved.**

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

B. You see, God gave His only Son and Jesus gave His own blood!

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

Romans 5:9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood,** we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Matthew 26:26-28 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For **this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

2. God has spoken – If we truly love Him, we will do what He has said.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son,** whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Isaiah 34:16 Search from the book of the Lord, and read: Not one of these shall fail; Not one shall lack her mate. **For My mouth has commanded it....**

3. Conditional Gift

- A. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and understood that his survival, and the survival of the human race, was conditional upon his obedience.**

Genesis 6:8-14

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

4. Not by our own works or law

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

- A. We cannot be justified in the sight of God by obedience to the Law of Moses, our own law, or any works that we invent and deem acceptable to God.**

5. Spirit of Grace

- A. We need to have a proper understanding of the Spirit of God's Grace. God has provided the way to salvation, but does not guarantee salvation to everyone.**

Hebrews 10:28-30 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

Man's Side

Hebrews 5:8-9 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became **the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**

1. All have sinned

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. Man has an obligation to hear God and respect His Word **Hebrews 2:1-3**

3. Man must come to His Grace

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore **come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy** and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 11:28 **Come to Me,** all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

4. Man must DO the works of God

John 9:4 **I must work the works of Him who sent Me** while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

John 6:28-29 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, **"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."**

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and **works righteousness** is accepted by Him."

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling;

Colossians 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him **through faith in the working of God,** who raised Him from the dead.

5. Live up to the Spirit of Grace

- A. We must remain faithful, which means we must DO His works of righteousness.
Revelation 2:10
- B. If we do not do God's will, doing the works that He has asked us to do which proves our love, faith, and obedience, then we will be condemned to an eternity in hell.
2 Peter 2:20-22

The Promise Fulfilled

1. Promise of Joy!

- A. God has promised to fulfill His promise to all those who accept His grace.

Isaiah 51:11 So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

2. Fulfillment

- A. When we accept God's grace then we can be assured that God's promise will be fulfilled in our life!

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 8:39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

- B. A New Testament example of the fulfillment of God's grace is shown to us by the Philippian jailor and his family.
Acts 16:30-34 (SEE CHART)

