

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Throughout history, mankind has taken pride in human achievements. But no matter how great and marvelous these accomplishments are, mankind still fails to achieve one thing – salvation. All of man's attempts to save and redeem himself are in vain. It is for the simple reason that salvation is never dependent on man. Salvation belongs to God alone. Our salvation is entirely due to the grace of God. As we reflect on what God's Word teaches about the role of God's grace in the salvation of His people, let's consider these two foundational gospel truths.

1. *Our salvation is by* _____.

God's Word unambiguously teaches that our salvation is by God's grace alone, that it is not our own doing and that it is God's unmerited and free gift (Eph. 2:8). Our salvation entails being rescued from the danger of God's eternal wrath upon sin and being delivered from the punishment of eternal separation from God and endless torment in hell (1 Thess. 5:9). The sole basis and only cause of our salvation is the grace of God. God's grace is His generous, kind, and merciful disposition and character (Psalm 103:8-12). God's grace is also His unmerited favor and His compassionate act of saving sinners who deserve nothing but His wrathful judgment and condemnation (Rom. 3:23; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). Paul further teaches that our salvation is through faith (Eph. 2:8). If grace is the cause of our salvation, faith is the means of our salvation. Saving faith is biblical knowledge which leads to belief, trust, commitment and surrender to Christ alone for eternal life (Rom. 10:9; Acts 16:31). This grace of salvation through faith should also be understood and received as God's divine gift.

2. *Our salvation is not according to* _____.

God's Word clearly teaches that our salvation "*is not a result of works, so that no one may boast*" (Eph. 2:9). Throughout history, men and women have tried to obtain salvation by human effort. And Paul emphasizes the truth that all kinds, forms and categories of human work, whether it be religious accomplishment, or good works or moral deeds could never earn our salvation nor could they merit our right standing before God (Phil. 3:4-8). Our human sinfulness is so grave that no amount of good deeds or moral achievements could ever make us right with God. In fact, in light of God's perfect holiness, our religious works and good deeds are but filthy rags and polluted garments (Isa. 64:6). Paul adds the reason why our salvation is not of works: "*so that no one may boast*" (Eph. 2:9). All human boasting is excluded when it comes to our salvation because our human works could never result in the removal of God's wrath upon our sins, our acceptance with God and reception of eternal life. There is only one form of boasting that will be allowed in heaven: divine boasting. It is boasting in the Lord, boasting in Christ and His finished work on the Cross (Gal. 6:14). For all eternity, we will boast in the Lord and say, "*To God alone be the glory for we have been saved solely by grace through faith in Christ. It is not our own doing; it is the gift of God!*"
