

Saved By Grace

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as 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 so that we would walk in them.”



By GRACE through FAITH in BAPTISM for GOOD WORKS!

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Grace is the **BASIS** of our Salvation!

Whatever else we may say about the plan of salvation, it must be consistent with grace.

But what is grace?

Grace “contains the idea of ***kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved.***” Thayer, p. 666

Grace is **not** something man can work for and earn! Hence, we see the contrast in

Romans 11:6; 4:2-4

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Romans 11:6; 4:2-4

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. **NASU**

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." **4** Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. **NKJV**

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By **GRACE** through **FAITH** in **BAPTISM** for **GOOD WORKS!**

FAITH is the means (**ACCESS**) by which the sinner receives the gracious gift of salvation!

Hebrews 11:6 – “And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him”.

John 1:12 – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the **right to become** children of God, even to those who **believe** in His name...”

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Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our **introduction by faith** into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” NASU

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FAITH is the means (**ACCESS**) by which the sinner receives the gracious gift of salvation!

Acts 16:29-31 “And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, **30** and after he brought them out, he said, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” **31** They said, “ **Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” NASU

NOTE: Belief is **not** something you **do** – it is the **means** by which the sinner **receives** the grace which brings salvation!

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The very essence of faith is taking God at His word – This is called ***Assent!***

When God makes a promise, we believe that He ***can*** and ***will*** keep that promise –
This is called ***Trust!***

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Romans 4:18-21 “In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." 19

Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; 20 yet, **with respect to the promise of God he did not waver** in unbelief but **grew strong in faith,** giving glory to God, 21 and **being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.**” NASU

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Remember: Grace is God's gift!

Faith is man's Response to that gift.

Grace demands a Response!

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But what about verse 9?

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9 not as 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 so that we would walk in them. NASU

What kind of **works** is meant here?

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1. Is it works of the Law of Moses? Rom. 2:17, 23 - “But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely upon the Law and boast in God”... 23 “You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?” NASU

2. Is it man’s own works of righteousness? Titus 3:5 – “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...”

Baptism does not fall under either of the above categories!

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By **GRACE** through **FAITH** *in BAPTISM* for **GOOD WORKS!**

BAPTISM is the *TIME* the sinner meets God in spiritual surgery when salvation is initially given!

Ephesus and Colosse – Parallel Passages

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Eph. 2:1-11; Col. 2:11-13 – Parallel Passages

Ephesians 2:1-11

Dead in sins...

*Risen with Christ,
made alive*

*Circumcision
without hands...*

Colossians 2:11-13

God's work of spiritual
circumcision
takes place in
BAPTISM!

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Colossians 2:11-13 - “And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; **12 having been buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also raised up with Him **through faith in the working of God**, Who raised Him from the dead. **13** When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions...” NASU

Baptism is the Time

Galatians 3:26-27 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ. NASU

Romans 6:3 - Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus **have been baptized into His death?**

Baptism is the Time

1 Peter 3:21 – “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,..” RSV

Hebrews 9:14 – “...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” NASU

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GOOD WORKS are the **RESULT** of salvation by grace through faith. It is another **RESPONSE** to God's grace!

Eph. 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus for good works...”

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new **creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ESV

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Titus 2:11-14 – “For the **grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12 teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works**. NKJV

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There is Perfect Harmony Here! (Abraham & Cornelius were saved by grace)

Abraham was a man of faith, but could not be justified by works whereby he could glory before God – **Romans 4:1-3**

Yet, Abraham's faith was made perfect (fulfilled) by his works which **responded** to the grace of God – **James 2:21-23**

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Cornelius was a good man (**Acts 10:2**), but he could not be justified by his works of righteousness – **Titus 3:5**

Yet, he **responded** to God's grace, performing **works of righteousness** commanded him by God – **Acts 10:34,**
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By GRACE through FAITH in BAPTISM for GOOD WORKS!

We are saved, not by good works, but for good works – our response to God's grace!

Grace = Basis

Faith = Access

Baptism = Time

Good Works = Result