

Title: Salvation By Grace

Text: Ephesians 2:4-10

Last Sunday we looked at  
The Condition of people who are lost  
who are without Christ -  
Today we want to come to out  
Our subject: ~~Salvation by Grace.~~  
New Condition in Christ

Ephesians chapter 2 beginning at Vs 4. Our subject: ~~Salvation by Grace.~~

(Read 2:4-10)

Join me in a moment of prayer

Father, we thank you again, for the privilege of fellowshiping together, and studying your Word. I pray that you would keep us as only your Spirit can do. And I pray that you would apply your Word to our lives; and that our minds might be open to your truth; and our lives would be different because of it. We thank you for it. In Jesus name...Amen.

\*\*\*\*\*

Salvation by grace. It is hard to ~~be~~<sup>beat</sup> a theme like that.

(1E) I want to start of with the Person that makes ~~it~~<sup>salvation by grace</sup> possible. Because a lot of us have the idea that salvation is based upon something that we do.

~~In~~ Vs 4 ~~when it~~ starts off with "BUT GOD", you are seeing a contrast between who He is and what we are. In the order of these verses it is really only

one sentence from Vs 1 through Vs 10. And in the order, Vs 1 says "And you".

Then in Vs 4 "But God"....

You can't miss it if you look at it in that way. And you, dead, walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, lust of your flesh, and so on and so forth...

You were that way...

~~But God is different....Praise the Lord.~~

You know, <sup>Present</sup> if God wasn't different non of us would be saved. ~~"AND YOU"....~~

~~BUT GOD~~ ....The person who makes <sup>Salvation By Grace Possible is God</sup> this possible is very much different from

you and I. <sup>2 things</sup> ~~But~~, I would like you to notice that the <sup>characteristics</sup> main ~~character~~ <sup>God</sup> that ~~is~~

displays towards us is that "he is rich in mercy." If it were not for God's mercy, we would all be consumed on the spot according to Lamintations3:22.

In other words, if God wasn't holding back from us the wrath and punishment that we all deserve for our sins, we would be sapped, right where we are.

Just setting here God's judgement would fall upon us were it not for his mercy.

Grace is giving to us what we do not deserve and cannot earn. And mercy is holding back from us what we do deserve. *Namely - Judgment*

Illustration: In the Holy Place of the Temple of the Tabernacle there is a mercy seat, a slab of Gold over the Ark of the covenant. We call it the mercy seat. The angels of judgement are looking over that mercy seat. They are looking down on that Ark in the sense of God's judgement. *Namely - Satisfaction* Once a year on the day of atonement, the High Priest place the blood to appease the ~~wrath~~ *wrath* of God. To satisfy the wrath of God against a sinful people. *They* call it the mercy seat. And every year it had to be done again because God was holding back his wrath. *Heaven* The day came when they no longer celebrated as God wanted them to. No longer pictured substitutionary sacrifice. They began to become involved in idolary and false gods were established ~~throughout~~ throughout the land. And finally, as 2 Chronicles <sup>36</sup> tells us, "God brought his judgement. No longer could his wrath be appeased or satisfied because his people did not trust in the real <sup>cure</sup> ~~crue~~ for ~~sin~~ their sin.

The same thing is true of us. The wrath of God is abiding already on the unbeliever. The only thing that can satisfy God is when we trust the finished work of Christ *on Cross*

So, his characteristic...He is rich in mercy. I am glad He is not broke. Aren't you? ~~Just~~ Because I sure do need mercy.

You know, people often say: "You christians have some god! If you don't believe in Jesus then it seems that God is going to send us all to Hell!!!!!"

And you know, there is a big difference between a christian and a person who says that!!!! The person who makes statements like that obviously believes that God isn't fair or just, for sending you to Hell. While a christian is not looking for justice. Because a christian knows that if he got ~~justices~~ justices, he would be in Hell. You see, a christian ~~is~~ is looking for mercy. We want God to hold back from us what we really deserve.....

~~And~~, sometimes, ~~we~~ a christian fail to understand that the only reason God does not judge us right on the spot is because He is rich in his mercy. And I praise God for it. Because we all need his mercy.

(2F) There is another thing that really hite me about the person who makes salvation by grace possible. It is all rooted in the compassion that ~~he~~ deminstrated the moment Jesus died. Look at Vs 4 again. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of (or on account of) His great love with which He loved us."

Now, it is true that God continues to love us. But that is not what Vs 4 says. It says "HE LOVED US". That is referring to a point in time in the past He is referring to the cross.

~~When~~ In I John 4 we are remanded that God loved us at that moment when ~~he~~ sent his son to ~~be our mercy seat~~ <sup>die on the cross</sup> for our sins. ~~When Christ died~~, God deminstrated his love to us in a way that could never be seen in any other way.

And notice in Vs 4 it says "His great love." And that is a tremendous blessing. Because I realized ~~what Verse 1-3 said about me~~. That my sin is great. And in contrast HIS LOVE IS GREAT. That is so wonderful.

My sin is so great and ~~yet~~ <sup>yet</sup>, God still loves me. And nothing is more re-assuring then that.

You get up in the morrowing and maybe you feel down and no one cares about you. Yet, you have that re-assurance that God cares...He knows every thing about you. And he still loves you. It just blows my mind.

GOD...LOVED...US..... (~~Hay, what is the matter? Are you dead? Let's hear ~~and Amen!!!!~~~~).....

Salvation by grace. It is only possible, <sup>dear friends</sup> ~~people~~, because of God's great love. No limitations. <sup>NO Conditions</sup> ~~It is just so fantastic~~. And his greata love was deminstrated the moment Jesus died on the cross....Praise the Lord...

O.K., the person who makes salvation possible is not us. We ~~can't~~ <sup>cannot</sup> save ourself. It is God.

(2F) Now, look at the problem that is solves. In Vs 5 we read "even when we were dead,"

Now God

~~used other words~~

He could have chosen any of the descriptions of Vs 3 at that point, to remain us of our sin. To say even though we were walking according to the course of the world....Or...Even though we were in the lust of our flesh.... He didn't. He choose "death."

"He, when we were dead, God being rich in mercy show his great love."

He did not

Unresponsive to God... ~~not~~ able to respond to Him... ~~He was~~ <sup>and you cannot</sup> ~~caring nothing~~ about him... <sup>understand spiritual things</sup> Dead. Our sins have separated us from God....There is no response in our hearts, yet. BUT GOD STILL LOVES US. It is fantastic.

cut

This remains us of Vs 1 .."You were dead in your trespasses and sins."

Yet, God has loved us...and made Salvation possible

(3) <sup>Now Notice Vs 5</sup> ~~Am~~ look at the power this salvation by grace works in our lives.

(1) There are three verbs here which tells us about this power.

Vs 5 says "Made us alive together with Christ"

Vs 6 says "raised us up with Him"

And the last part of Vs 6 "seated us with Him in the heavenly places."

I would like to share several things with you about these verses.

(1) First of all, every one of those verbs happened at a moment of time. God has made us alive....God has raised us up....and God has seated us....

~~It is~~ It is already done. It is finished. Praise the Lord.

(2) The second thing that strick me is each of those <sup>verbs</sup> require someone acting upon us to make it happen.....Do you see that?

God made me alive....God raised me up.....God seated me...

(3) And a third thing that hite me ~~about that~~ is that at the end of each of those verbs is a preposition in Greek meaning "together."...It is also translated "with".

Look at Vs 5..."made us alive together with Christ....

Vs 6.."He raised us up with Him...And he seated us with Him.

The point is...that this <sup>salvation by grace</sup> would never had happened if it were not for Jesus. All of this has happened because it has been done through Christ...

We are in him....a secure position.... <sup>eternal security of the believer</sup>

Next, notice where your true residence is?.... Did you notice that....

I am seated with him where?...."IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.".....

Now, I admit that <sup>you</sup> are taking that by faith. <sup>we</sup> You are trusting what God says about <sup>us</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>we</sup> you. You are seated with him in the heavenlies.

But, don't you have a problem, as I do, with "down here." Philippians 3:20 says that our citizenship is in heaven. Our true residence is up there

Have you ever heard someone say, "He is so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good."

Do you believe that?....I don't believe that at all....The <sup>Truth</sup> ~~true~~ of the scripture is that if you are heavenly minded, you will be of earthly good.

We are to set our minds <sup>or</sup> of things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. And here it says "seated with Him in the heavenly ~~places~~ places." At his right hand. The place of power, <sup>The place of</sup> ~~and also~~ security. The place where Jesus is. Because I am in Jesus. And my position is up there with Jesus. Prune God

Now, another thing about this that hite me. I am seated. And as I studied about the furture, my relationship with God in the future, I noticed the following things:

- (1 ) There are passages that tell me that I am going to stand before God.
- (2 ) I notice, also, that there are passages that have me serving God.
- (3 ) Also, there are passages that say that I am going to fall down and worship him.

Yet, this passage says that "I am seated with Him." NOW, WHAT IS THE POINT?....Turn over to Hebrew, please. The book of Hebrews chapter 1:3....

I have been made alive, spiritually. I have been raised up from the dead.. I have new life in Jesus...And I have been seated in the heavenly places...

Hebrews 1:3.....(Read Vs 2-3)

Now, I have shared this with you before. But it is good to remember... In the ancient tabernacle where the Hebrew Priest served God, there were no chairs. Now, isn't it nice to come to church and have all <sup>these nice</sup> ~~this nice~~ pews while you listen to this guy in the public sound off....You know, it is nice to seat here.....But, listen, in the Tabernacle there aren't any chairs.. No body seats down....The High Priest never seats down.....

And there is a very important point. Why doesn't the Priest ever seat down? You would think that he would get tired doing all these sacrifices... Never taking a coffee break....

And the point is obvious... <sup>That's what</sup> ~~THE~~ WORK IS NEVER DONE... Atonment was never completed. Do you understand?..... It is fantastic. There is no chair.. He never seats down.... Every year on the day of atonment he has to come back.. And every day he has to offer the individual sacrifices for the peoples sins. It never ended. Until... Jesus Christ died once for all. And the Bible says that Jesus Christ cleansed you ; and he sat down. It is done.. It is finished...

Now, the neat thing is that when you and I become christians, we are not only made alive, not only resurrected, but WE SET DOWN WITH JESUS..

And a lot of us, I have the feeling, mental have just gotten up out off the chair and are running around tryaing to prove to God that we are worthy of his grace.... Now, you probably don't do that. But some people do!

They have so much quilt in their life that they are trying to atone for it. When the truth of the matter is that you need to rest in the Lord, and just set down. We have already been seated ~~with~~ wthih Jesus, postionally. Thank God for it. It is done. It is finished. Aren't you glade/?

(AMEN!!!!....Let's hear it...Amen)

*(YE)* O.K. let's come back to Ephesisans Vs 7. What is God's purpose behind

Salvation by Grace? I mean, why did He set this thing up? Salvation by Grace! All of God and nothing from man? WHY DID HE DO THAT? ☘

In Ephesians 2:7 <sup>Paul</sup> says "in order that (there is your reason) in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." *There it is That is the purpose*

I don't know how you relate to that verse?.... But as I studied it and thought about it, I keep asking why?..... WHY, LORD, DO YOU WANT TO DO THAT FOR ME?... I am thankful. I am saved. I am going to heaven. But, this verse is saying that God, forever, is going to keep on showing me his wonderful grace and his kindness, WHY LORD!!!! WHY?

The answer to that question lies with God...It doesn't lie with me. It is found in God. Why God, are you going to continue to show me your grace and love? And the answer is in God. God will show it for himself. It brings him glory. It brings him praise for us to know how surpassing riches is his grace toward us.

Man! you talk about a God of love. God loves us that much. I don't believe we can understand the depth of this verse. But I praise God it is true. And I look forward to that day when I shall know the depth of God's grace. And we shall know that salvation is of the Lord, and not of man...

(5B) Now, let's come to ~~these wonderful verses of chapter 2.~~ <sup>the heart of this passage</sup> Verses 8 and 9.

"For by grace you have been saved through ~~what~~"....FAITH....

Friends, there is a prerequisite of having salvation by grace. And it is FAITH. This passage says "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

How many of you really believe that faith is a gift from God?.....

You are all wrong. Did you know that? Isn't that terrible?...

One of the most misunderstood principles is Ephesians 2:8. Great doctrine and opinions of christians have been built on this verse. And there is one simple mistake.....<sup>That a lot of people make and I want you to</sup> Look at the verse carefully....

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourself. The whole point centers around the word "THAT". You see, <sup>the best</sup> most people refer the word "that" back to the word "faith". But it cannot be. Because in Greek it is in a different gender. It refers back to the word "grace."

You see, <sup>Paul</sup> is not saying that "faith is not of yourself; that faith is a gift of God; that faith is not the result of works. He is not saying that.

The word "that" refers to "grace". That you are presently in the position of having been saved by grace. It is salvation by grace that is the gift of God and <sup>is</sup> not of yourself.

<sup>and</sup> And that is why faith is essential. Faith is a channel by which you accept what God alone can do. And it is not of you. Not of you at all.

Let me show you something. In this <sup>Paul</sup> is telling us why faith is essential.

1 Why? Because salvation by grace is, number, one, not of yourself. And <sup>name</sup> two, 2 salvation by grace is a gift of God. You cannot pay for it. You cannot earn it. <sup>you</sup> cannot do anything to deserve it.

3 And <sup>third</sup>, salvation by grace is not of works. There is nothing you can do in the way of good works that would earn you salvation by grace.

4 And, fourth, no one should boast because of it. Why? Because it is all of God. It is all by grace.

Now, let's look at faith again.... Many times people will say, "I sure hope I have enough faith to believe this".

That statement in itself reveals its weakness as faith. God is not saying that you can be saved if you can only believe enough. If you can only be strong enough to hang on, you can be saved. That is not the meaning of Biblical faith. Some people see faith in a vacuum. Like ~~was~~ wisling in the dark. "Boy, you sure need faith in this world to get along."

The very word faith demands an object. And it is not ~~the~~ faith that saves you. It is Christ who saves you. Faith is the channel....

Let me illustrate: Let's say some one comes to you and offers you 1 million million dollars. But, you know the person only makes 5,000 dollars a year. I doubt seriously if you would place a great deal of faith in that man.

But, suppose a guy come to you and says, "Hay, I am going to give you 10 dollars. All you have to say is I love you." And he shows the 10 dollars to you....And you respond...."Man, I love you. Give me my 10."

How can you put your faith in that? ~~He~~ could grabe it and take it away from you....

Let me give you <sup>an</sup> another illustration.....This is a chair!....Everyone believe in the chair?....How many of you really believe that is a chair?.... O.K.....WE are right on target this <sup>evening</sup> ~~morning~~.

Now, let's suppose I was a sales men selling you <sup>the</sup> chair. This is a fantastic chair. ~~It~~ will hold you up. I garantee it.

Now, if you have sat in <sup>other</sup> chairs you would probable take my word for it. That is a good chair....It has good gquality.....and so forth....



And you believe that is a chair. Now, I ask you, is that <sup>the</sup> saving faith in the Bible?....NO, it is not.

A lot of people have the same kind of reation towards Jesus Christ. You believe he lived? Of course, doesn't everybody.

O.K. let me show you what saving faith is. (go over and set in the chair)

I just exerised saving faith....WHY?....I entrusted myself to the thing that I said I believe it, the chair.....

What holds me up? My faith?.....No, the chair....

When we apply this spiritually. ~~the~~ chair is Christ. Not my faith...

A lot of ~~you~~ are suggleing with ~~your~~ christian experience because ~~you~~ think it is depended upon ~~your~~ ability to keep on believing. Oh, no it isn't. God doesn't base salvation on your ability to believe. He bases it on His own grace. He gives to you what you do not deserve or cannot earn or cannot work for. It is salvation by grace alone. You must believe and put your trust in what the Bible says about Jesus. That Jesus and Jesus alone saves you.

/The/reason/that/nor/of/us/will/ever/boast/ <sup>and</sup>

Friends, salvation is ~~of~~ God. It is not ~~of~~ man. And oh how we need to learn this... Because I am tired of the boasting about how great we are in our past life and how God really got a blessing when he got me, and all of this junk. I am tired of these tesitmonies. I wish folks would get around to the truth. It is God who works in you both ~~to~~ will and do his good pleasure.

Let's start praising the Lord. I wwas really blessed with a testimony that I heard recently. <sup>as Biola Havn</sup> The boy testifing said: He said: "Anything that I have done, is not worthy ~~to~~ be on the same plateform with what ~~he~~ has done."

And I thought to~~t~~ myself. "Boy, you have it." "Anything that I have done, is not worthy to be on the same plateform with what ~~he~~ has done."

And I believe that a lot of us forget this wonderful truth. Salvation is by God's grace. And I have not done anything to~~t~~ earn it or deserve it.

( ) But, there is a marilous plan behind all of this. A marilous plan.

Vs 10 says "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

*salvation by Grace*

Notice, first of all, that ~~this~~ is based upon God's work. We are his workmanship. The Greek word is the word PO'AMA". And from this word we get our word "POEM...And to me that is wonderful. I am God's poem. I am a little love message....I kind of like that....

Turn over to Romans 1:20 and let show you another poem. Romans 1:20... God has another poem that he wrote. And it tells us something about God. Just as surely as we tell folks about god through what he has done in our life.

Vs 20....(Read Vs 20)

Now, that little phrase "what has been made" is the Greek word PO'AMA... Poem...In other words, the universe that God created is a poem. And it is giving us a message about God. His eternal power and divine nature.

It doesn't tell you everything. But it does tell you something about God's greatness. And about his power as you look at the universe. That is one poem.

But Ephesians 2:10 says that I am His poem Because I have been saved by the grace of God.

People look at you and they say, "Hay, man, there is no way you deserve to be a christian." And the answer is: "That is right!" "I sure don't"...

Or, people say, "Hay, I know what he is like. Do you mean to tell me that he is a christian?"

Salvation by grace is God's poem. And he loves to take someone who people say is unreachable and save him....

Have you ever thought that about someone? you look at someone and say, "There is no way that that person will ever be saved."....

I think God smiles when he hears that. And says, "Just watch!"...And God saves him....He reaches down with his grace and transforms his life....

Salvation by grace is based upon his work.

But <sup>prede</sup> it is also based upon his will ...Vs 10 says "prepared beforehand"....

You see, God couldn't wait for you to make the decision. That is what a lot of folks think. That as soon as you ~~will~~ decide, then God begins to work.

OH, NO...God prepared this ahead of time. He knows what we are like. And God layed out the whole plan ahead of time. This is in God. He is doing it. It is rooted in his love and his grace and mercy. And he planned it ahead of <sup>time</sup> ~~time~~

