

“By Grace Through Faith”

Ephesians 2:8-10

YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED. v.8

1. By grace. Grace = the completely undeserved loving commitment of God to us.

- Grace is demonstrated by God’s response in v.4-5 to man’s condition in v.1-3.

2. Through Faith.

- The wording is important: *through* faith, not by faith.

3. What is saving faith?

- Saving faith is not subjective feelings. ‘I truly believe I am a Christian, therefore I am.’
- Saving faith is not merely believing in the supernatural. ‘I truly believe there is a spiritual realm.’ Ref. Acts 8:9f
- Saving faith is not positive thinking. ‘I need to have a positive mental attitude and hope for the best.’
-‘I truly believe there is a heaven—therefore I am going to heaven.’
- Saving faith is not believing Biblical truth. ‘I believe Jesus is the Son of God and that He rose from the dead.’
-James 2:19: You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

→ Saving faith in Jesus Christ is receiving & resting upon Him alone for my salvation, entrusting my life—past, present, and future—to Him.

NOT A RESULT OF WORKS. v.9

1. Our salvation does not happen because of something we do or contribute. v.9a

- v.9: not a result of “works.” Gk. *ἔργων* = a work or a deed that is done

→ We are saved by faith alone: *Sola Fida*

2. We are not saved BY faith, but THROUGH faith.

- Faith is not a “work” which we do.
- We are not saved by our faith or because of our faith—we are saved by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

3. All basis of our boasting is removed—we contributed nothing to our salvation. v.9b

WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP...CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS. v.10

1. Christians are the “workmanship” of God.

- We are his “workmanship,” Gk. *ποίημα* = a work that is made, NOT a work that is done. ‘poem’

→ Meaning: We are the result of *His* work; we are the result of *His* activity.

2. Christians are created...for God works.

- We are created for good “works.” Gk. *ἔργοις* = from *ἔργων* in v.9: a work or deed that is done

→ The first time we actually do any “works” is AFTER salvation. We are saved FOR works, not BY works.

NEW LIFE

1. A new creation: “...created in Christ Jesus...”

- “Created in Christ Jesus.” 2 Corinthians 5:17. Ref. John 3:3,7; Ephesians 4:23-24

2. A new walk: “...that we should walk in them...”

- Compare with v.2: “...in which you once walked...”
- Ref. Ephesians 4:1; 5:1-2; 5:8; 5:15

3. A new poem: “For we are his workmanship...”

- Compare v.10: For we are his ‘poem’ with v.3: carrying out (‘writing poetry’) the desires of the body and mind

Faith is the least self-regarding of the virtues. It is by its very nature scarcely conscious of its own existence. Like the eye which sees everything in front of it and never sees itself, faith is occupied with the object upon which it rests and pays no attention to itself at all. While we are looking at God we do not see ourselves-blessed riddance. The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect one. While he looks at Christ, the very things he has long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do.

Faith is not in itself a meritorious act; the merit is in the One toward whom it is directed. Faith is a redirecting of our sight, a getting out of the focus of our own vision and getting God into focus. Sin has twisted our vision inward and made it self-regarding. Unbelief has put self where God should be, and is perilously close to the sin of Lucifer who said, "I will set my throne above the throne of God." Faith looks out instead of in and the whole life falls into line.

-A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God