

Bible Studies

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

Read Ephesians 2v1-10

Whenever we try to understand a verse we have to understand the context it is written in.

Verse 1-3 describe:

Verse 4-6 describe:

Verse 7 describes:

Verse 8-10 describe:

Why do you think verse is so important?

I think it is important because it is another verse like John 3v16 that explains how we are saved.

The first verse talks about being saved, saved means rescued or delivered.

What are we saved from?

Romans 5:9, 1 Peter 1:18, Matthew 23:33, Colossians 1v13, 1 John 2:2

What is Grace?

There are many ways to define grace, the most common is ‘God’s unmerited favour’. Someone else put it **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**. I think of it as God doing what I don’t deserve and He doesn’t have to do.

What was the result of God’s grace in this passage?

How did God extend His grace to us?

Why are we undeserving of His salvation?

Another way to look at this is, what did I ever do that God should care for me?

Read Titus 3v5

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Romans 3:28 (justified means made right with God)

What could we have done to make ourselves worthy of His salvation?

The disconcerting answer is nothing. We do not have anything to barter with God for our salvation. Even our righteousness is like filthy rags. Isa 64v6. Some things are so precious, they can only be given, never bought. We can do nothing for the salvation of our souls, other than respond in faith to God’s free gift.

It is unclear whether it is faith that is, not of yourselves it is the gift of God, or salvation as a whole both are true.

What is the Faith Paul is talking about here?

Faith in this context is believing that when we accept His offer of salvation, He will do what He has promised, accept us, wash away our sins, give us eternal life.

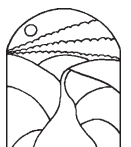
Faith here is saying, yes to God, responding to Him.

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Who did what?

Took the initiative
 Provided the way to be saved
 Responded in faith
 Gave the faith

God

Man

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

What does 'not by works' mean?

The main thing he means by works is keeping the law, but he also means good deed. Anything we think brings us credit with God.

What examples can you think of?**What does we are his workmanship mean?**

It can mean three things:

Psalm 139v13

2 Corinthians 5:17

Philippians 2v13

This passage declares that we cannot be made right with God by doing good works. But this does not mean that we don't do them.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

We are to do the good works that God has already prepared for us.

What kind of things are they?

You could say there are three groups; physical good deeds (like helping the poor), spiritual deeds (like witnessing) and internal good deeds (like not sinning)

Read James 2v14-24

Some people seem to think that there is a contradiction here between Paul, who says we are Justified by faith and James who says we are Justified by works. James certainly seems to assume that we already know, as Paul taught, that we are saved by faith. Nor does he teach we are saved by what we do. James argument is that faith which cannot be seen, is no faith at all. He is concerned with the reality of faith.

Ie. You become a Christian, but there is no change in your lifestyle, not even a small, tentative, attempt to get your life in line with God's standards.

James would say to you "well you say you believe in God, but you don't believe in Him enough to obey Him. Surely if you really had faith in God you would want to obey Him."

They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. Titus 1:16.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 1 John 1:6

It is like a Christian version of 'the Emperors new clothes', we parade down the street, claiming to be wearing these amazing robes. James is the little boy who says, "If I can't see your faith in your actions then it's not there."

We do Good deeds because we are saved, not to get saved. Deeds prove faith, faith motivates deeds.

Do you think Paul would have disagreed?

Does this mean that if we sin or fail we are no longer Christians?

What does it mean?

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Whenever we try to understand a verse we have to understand the context it is written in.

Verse 1-3 describe: *Our hopeless condition prior to salvation*

Verse 4-6 describe: *Our current status as those who are saved*

Verse 7 describes: *God’s Eternal purposes (his reason for saving us)*

Verse 8-10 describe: *How we are saved*

Why do you think verse is so important?

I think it is important because it is another verse like John 3v16 that explains how we are saved.

The first verse talks about being saved, saved means rescued or delivered.

What are we saved from?

God’s Wrath; Dead way of life, Hell, Satans control, Sin,

Romans 5:9, 1 Peter 1:18, Matthew 23:33, Colossians 1v13, 1 John 2:2

What is Grace?

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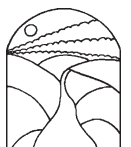
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= God created us

2 Corinthians 5:17

= God recreated us

Philippians 2v13

= God is still at work in us.

This passage declares that we cannot be made right with God by doing good works. But this does not mean that we don't do them.

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We are to do the good works that God has already prepared for us.

What kind of things are they?

Giving to those in need; Reading the Bible and praying; being holy.

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