Salvation Through Grace

Ephesians 2:8–9

<u>Salvation</u> by grace through faith is at the heart of the Christian religion. This statement has three parts—<u>salvation</u>, <u>grace</u>, and <u>faith</u>—all three are equally important which constitute a basic principle of Christianity.

The word *salvation* is defined as "the act of being delivered, redeemed, or rescued." The Bible tells us that, since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, each person is born in sin inherited from Adam: <u>Psalm 51:5</u> <u>Romans 5:12</u>

Sin is what causes all of us to die. Sin separates us from God, and sin destines each person to eternal separation from Him in hell.

What each of us needs are to be delivered from that fate. In other words, we need salvation from sin and its penalty. <u>Romans 6:23</u>

How are we saved from sin?

Most religions throughout history have taught that salvation is achieved by good works, <u>salvation</u> is not the result of good intentions.

No matter how well-intentioned or "good" we may be, the fact is that we simply do not have the power or the goodness to overcome the <u>sin nature</u> we have inherited from Adam. We need something more powerful, and this is where <u>grace</u> comes in. <u>Ephesians 2:4–5</u>.

The <u>grace of God</u> is His undeserved favor bestowed on those He has called to salvation through His love <u>Luke 17:11-19</u>

It is His grace that saves us from sin. We are "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" <u>Romans 3:24</u>

Being justified, we are vindicated and determined to be sinless in the eyes of God. Our sin no longer separates us from Him and no longer sentences us to hell. Grace is not earned by any effort on our part; otherwise, it could not be called grace.

Grace is free. If our good works earned salvation, then God would be obligated to pay us our due. But no one can earn heaven, and God's blessings are not His obligation; they flow from His goodness and love.

The <u>sin nature</u> is that aspect in man that makes him rebellious against God. When we speak of the sin nature, we refer to the fact that we have a natural inclination to sin; given the choice to do God's will or our own, we will naturally choose to do our own thing.

Sinful behavior comes naturally. The news is filled with tragic examples of mankind acting badly. Wherever people are, there is trouble. <u>1 John 1:8-10</u>

The Bible explains the reason for the trouble. Humanity is sinful, not just in theory or in practice but by nature. Sin is part of the very fiber of our being. <u>Romans 8:3</u>. <u>Colossians 3:5</u>. <u>Romans 6:6</u>

No matter how diligently we pursue works to earn God's favor, we will fail. Our sin trips us up every time. "By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight" <u>Romans 3:20</u>.

<u>Salvation</u> is obtained by faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ, in what He has done—specifically, His death on the cross and His resurrection. But even faith is not something we generate on our own. Faith, as well as grace, is the gift of God <u>Ephesians 2:8</u>.

He bestows saving faith and saving grace upon us in order to redeem us from sin and deliver us from its consequences. So God saves us by His grace through the faith He gives us. Both grace and faith are gifts. <u>Psalm 3:8</u>,

By grace, we receive the faith that enables us to believe that He has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and provide the salvation we cannot achieve on our own.

Just like the author of a book creates it from scratch, Jesus Christ wrote the story of our <u>redemption</u> from beginning to end. Jesus, as God in flesh, is the "author and perfecter of our faith" <u>Hebrews 12:2</u>. <u>Ephesians 1:4–6</u>.

The Lord died for our sins and rose for our justification, and He forgives, freely and fully, those who accept His gift of grace in Christ—and that acceptance comes through faith. This is the meaning of salvation by grace through faith.