

**Subject: *Salvation by Grace Alone***

**Scripture: *Ephesians 2:1-10***

We are so thankful for the Bible and we stand upon it as our final authority for what we believe and how we live.

In our text we see the emphasis on God's grace in salvation: (vs. 5) by grace ye are saved; (vs. 8) by grace are ye saved; and (vs. 7) the exceeding riches of his grace.

D. L. Moody was working in his study and researching what the Bible taught about God's grace. He went for a walk and spoke to a man on the sidewalk, "What do you know about grace?" The man said, "Grace who?"

The Bible has a lot to say about grace. There is common grace and there is saving grace, and both kinds of grace are the free gift of God. Common grace is a term that refers to the general blessings of life—our life, health, family, job, food, shelter, clothes, and so on. Saving grace is a special kind of grace. It is the grace that saves sinners. It was saving grace that John Newton had on his mind when he wrote "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me..." What is so amazing about grace?

### **1. By God's grace we have spiritual life (vs. 1, 5)**

Vs. 1, 5 – we were dead in trespasses and sins, but by grace God has quickened us (made us alive). To be dead in trespasses and sins means we had no spiritual life. By nature we're not weak or sick...we're spiritually dead. We have physical life, but we are spiritually dead. To be dead is to be unresponsive to God. To be dead is to have no appetite for spiritual things. To be dead is to have no desire to serve God or worship God. But God's grace changes that.

### **2. By God's grace we have spiritual desires (vs. 2-3)**

Before we are saved we walk (live) like the world and under the influence of Satan. We live by the desires of the flesh (our unredeemed human nature). We satisfy the desires of the flesh and the mind. We do what we want and we think about this world only. This is how Paul describes our life without Christ in contrast to our new life as a Christian:

***Romans 8:5-6** <sup>5</sup> For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Two words in the verse 4 change everything ("But God..."). Because of our sins we deserve God's wrath (vs. 3). That shouldn't surprise us because God is holy and righteous and He must judge and punish sin. The wrath of God against sin is not surprising. What is surprising is God's grace. Wrath is what we deserve. Grace is what we don't deserve. We deserve God's judgment, but in salvation He gives us love and grace.

***Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

By His grace God forgives us and changes us. He gives us a new heart with new desires. By grace He teaches us a different way to live and gives us the power to live that way. God loves us as we are, but His grace doesn't leave us the way we are. He changes us.

He gives us a heart to repent of our sins and live a holy and pure life. We hate what we used to love and we love what we used to hate. We no longer live like the world, but we look for a new world in heaven.

*Titus 2:11-14* <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; <sup>13</sup> Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup> Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

### **3. By God's grace we have eternal hope (vs. 6-7)**

We have been spiritually raised with Christ. We are now spiritually seated with Christ. When we are saved we are united with Christ ("in Christ"). Verse 7 reminds us that we will marvel at God's kindness toward us for all eternity (in the ages to come). Sometimes we use the expression, "I just can't get over what God did for me." That's the way we'll feel for all eternity. Even when we've been with Him for thousands and millions of years we will still be amazed at the exceeding riches of his grace. We will know that we didn't deserve any of His kindness. Everything is a gift of his free grace.

### **4. By God's grace we have special opportunities (vs. 10)**

We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Our works have nothing to do with salvation. It's all by grace, God's unmerited favor. Look again at verses 8-9. Salvation is not of works. It is the gift of God. Works has to do with human effort or merit. Grace is the opposite of works or merit.

This is the difference between religion and salvation. Religion is based on what a person does for God. Salvation is based on what God does for man.

We are saved by grace apart from works, but once we are saved we have the special privilege of doing good works. We are created for good works. We are God's workmanship (masterpiece) created to walk in good works. That's what we do as a way of life.

We are saved to serve. We are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works. The good works are not something we have to do; they are something we get to do. We get to serve our Lord and Savior out of love and gratefulness for all He's done for us.