

# WHAT SAVES US?

**Ephesians 2:8-9**



- **Ephesians 2:8-9**, we have examined this text as it relates to advocates of “faith only” salvation.
  - Even though “faith only” is not in the text
  - Many will advocate, “we are saved by grace alone, through Christ alone, by faith alone.”
- We have noted that the term “grace” in this text is representative of God’s part in our salvation, and “faith” is representative of man’s part in salvation.
- Let’s consider what scripture says saves us



# God's part in our salvation

- Grace – **Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 2:11.**  
**Romans 6:23** – “the gift of God is eternal life...”
- Mercy – **Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:4-5.** Mercy is God's compassion in spite of what we deserve
- Love – **John 3:16, Romans 5:6-9**
- Hope – **Romans 8:24, Titus 1:2.** Because we have hope (because of what God has promised and done), we take steps to be saved.



# God's part in our salvation

- Jesus – **Matthew 1:21, John 14:6** – He is the only access to the Father
  - Redemption found in Him – **Romans 3:24**. Also all understand this, but what about Jesus saves us?
  - His blood – **Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:7, Revelation 1:5, 1 Peter 1:19**
  - The cross – **1 Corinthians 1:18**. The message of the cross is the power of God to those being saved (**cf. Galatians 6:14**)



# God's part in our salvation

- Jesus – **Matthew 1:21, John 14:6** – He is the only access to the Father
  - His name – **John 20:30-31, Acts 4:10-12** We find life in His name (**cf. Acts 2:21**)
  - His resurrection – **1 Corinthians 15:17**
  - His life – **Romans 5:10**. We are saved by His life (He lived sinlessly). **2 Corinthians 5:21**



# God's part in our salvation

- Truth – **John 8:31-32,**  
**cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:10**  
By definition, truth is that which is verified as factual. There is OBJECTIVE truth (and subjective). Without OBJECTIVE truth, we cannot be saved (or know with certainty).
  - The gospel – **Romans 1:16-17, James 1:21,**  
**1 Corinthians 15:1-2**  
The gospel is truth THAT LEADS to our salvation!
  - Preachers/preaching – **1 Corinthians 1:21,**  
**Romans 10:13-15, Mark 16:15-16.** Preachers are a part of God's plan. How will we know?



# God's part in our salvation

- Concerning God's part, we have noted 13 different things that are part of our salvation.
  - When we speak of being saved by God's grace (alone), we understand that each of these elements are a part of His grace (what He has done) that saves us.
  - They are **INCLUSIVE** in "the grace of God that brings salvation"
  - We cannot remove any one of them from God's part in saving us.



# Man's part in our salvation

- While God has done His part, we must respond to Him according to His instructions. What are we told to do? (**cf. Acts 2:37, 16:30, etc.**)
  - Hearing the gospel – **Romans 10:14-17, cf. Acts 11:14, 1 Corinthians 15:1-2**
  - Belief – **John 3:16, 8:24, Acts 16:31**  
(In this point, we are addressing the simple need to believe)
  - Repentance – **Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30-31, Luke 13:3-5**. Most agree that salvation is associated with surrendering to Jesus and rejecting worldliness.





# Man's part in our salvation

- Our response to God's grace.
  - Confession – **Romans 10:9-10, Acts 8:36-37, Matthew 10:32-33.** Confession is an acknowledgment of what we believe about Jesus and our relationship with Him.
  - Baptism – **Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21.** Baptism puts us into Christ – **Galatians 3:27** & contacts His blood – **Romans 6:3-4, Revelation 1:5**



# Man's part in our salvation

- Our response to God's grace.
  - Works – **James 2:24, John 6:28-29**. NOTE: We are not speaking of meritorious (earned) works, but simply doing what we are told to do.
  - Obedience – **Hebrews 5:8-9, Matthew 7:21-23**
  - Endurance – **Matthew 10:22, 24:13, Revelation 2:10**. We cannot give up and hope to be saved. **Luke 9:62, cf. 2 Peter 2:20-22, etc.**



# Man's part in our salvation

- Our response to God's grace.
  - Ourselves – **Acts 2:40**. After revealing what they needed to do, Peter exhorted them to “save yourselves.” The point is, DO what you have been told so that God can do what He has promised. This is NOT about you making up your own set of rules and expecting God to accept them.



# Man's part in our salvation

- Our response to God's grace.
  - We have noted 9 things that we are called upon to do. We can summarize these in the expression, "through faith" in **Ephesians 2:8-9**.  
The term is inclusive of everything we ought to do.  
**E.g., Acts 16:31-33** – the jailer and his family.
  - **James 2:24** – *By works is a man justified and not by faith only.*  
The only time "faith only" is found in the NT.



# Concluding thoughts

- We have noted that **Ephesians 2:8-9** describes both God's part and man's part in our salvation.
  - Most will agree that everything God has done is summarized in the phrase "*by grace you have been saved.*"
- Are we willing to apply the same standard to everything we are called upon to do to be saved?  
We are saved "... *through faith.*" NOT something we earn or deserve (**vs. 9**), but rather because we believe we obey!



# Concluding thoughts

- We have noted 22 things involved in our salvation. Which one of these can we leave out?
- Which one of these is accompanied by the word “only” or “alone”?



God has **graciously** done his part!  
Will you **faithfully** do your part?



# Concluding thoughts

Let us pray!

