

## **Sermon 8: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone: Ephesians 2:8-10**

**Text: Ephesians 2:4-10** "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them..."

**Summary:** Our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone.

**Proposition:** He wants us to rejoice in this great salvation.

**Interrogative:** How can we do this?

**Truth 1: Grace Alone:** Our salvation is by grace alone: **2:8** "By grace are ye saved..."

- **Grace is God's unmerited favor poured out on us in Christ:**
  - **It does not start with us: 2:8** "That not of yourselves..."
  - **It is free to us: 2:8** "It is the gift of God..."
  - **It is not through work we have done: 2:9** "Not of works..."
  - **It confronts our pride: 2:9** "Lest any man should boast..."
- **The basis of our salvation is not:**
  - **Our traditions or money: 1 Peter 1:18-10** "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot..."
  - **Our ability to keep the law: Romans 3:20** "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin..."
  - **Our righteousness: Titus 3:5** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..."
- **All the work in our salvation was done by God not by us:**
  - **Christ's obedience: Romans 5:19** "By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous..."
  - **His sacrifice: Hebrews 10:10** "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all..."
  - **His triumph over death: 1 Corinthians 15:58** "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ..."

- **His righteousness: Philippians 3:9** "Be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith..."

**Truth 2: Faith alone:** It comes to us through faith alone: **2:8** "Saved through faith..."

- **Faith in Christ alone is the means God has established to save:**
  - **Philippians 3:9** "The righteousness which is of God by faith..."
  - **Romans 4:6** "To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness..."
  - **Romans 3:22** "The righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe..."
- **Faith is not:**
  - Meritorious
  - Impressive to God
  - A work we do for Him
- **It is trust in what He did for us: Christ Alone**
  - **A call for mercy: Luke 18:13** "The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner..."
  - **An appeal to salvation: Romans 10:13** "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved..."
  - **A request to be remembered: Luke 23:42** "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom..."
  - **Accepting the seemingly impossible: Romans 4:3** "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness..."
  - **The simple childlike response: Mark 10:15** "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein..."
- **It is choosing to take God at His word from the heart.**
  - **Mind:** Knowing the facts of the gospel.
  - **Heart:** Humbly accepting these facts and their personal implications from our heart.
  - **Will:** Choosing to personally rely on God's offer of salvation.

**Truth 3: Glory of God alone:** It is for the glory of God alone: **2:10** "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..."

- **Four key statements:**
  - **"His workmanship"**
    - The English word poem, comes from the term used in this verse. ποιημα
    - Our lives are like a work of art in His hands.

- He is molding our lives and shaping us for a purpose.
- **“Created in Christ Jesus”**
  - This creative work He is doing is found only in Christ.
  - He is the center of this plan.
- **“Unto good works”**
  - The result is real transformation.
  - From the beginning to the end this is God’s glorious work for us, in us, and through us.
- **“God hath before ordained...”**
  - **This statement takes us back to the beginning of our salvation.**
  - **From beginning to end, it is a complete package that celebrates the glory of God and His grace.**
    - **1:4** “Chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him...”
    - **1:5** “Predestinated us unto the adoption...”
    - **1:11** “Predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will...”
    - **1:6** “To the praise of the glory of his grace...”
    - **1:12** “That we should be to the praise of his glory...”
- **The most visible immediate evidence that all these things are true is the presence of the Holy Spirit in us: 1:13-14** “After that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...”
  - As we grow, we are reminded that this is just the beginning.
  - As we learn, we are reminded that this is only a small part of these wonderful concepts.
  - As we experience God’s comfort and conviction, we are reminded that we are His children, He loves us, and we give us all He has secured for us.
- **We are all forgiven sinners and works in progress:**
  - **Providence: Ecclesiastes 3:11** “He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end...”
  - **Judah: Jeremiah 18:3-4** “I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it...”

- **Our lives: 2 Corinthians 3:18** "We are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord..."

### **Applying the Passage:**

- **Question 1:** When we stand before God on Judgment Day what hope do we have?
  - If our confidence rests in anything other than Christ alone, we are not born again.
    - Baptism, church membership, giving to the church, doing acts of mercy, or general good behavior have no ability to reconcile you to God.
    - While all are good when understood properly, they have no power to save from sin.
    - We must recognize that salvation comes one way: by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and to the glory of God alone.
    - Turn to Christ and place your faith in His finished work.
- **Question 2:** When we experience moments of weakness and doubts, what do we go back to for confidence?
  - **Focus on the nature of salvation:** It is all of grace and free
  - **Focus on the basis of that salvation:** It is all in Christ's work
  - **Remind yourself of the simplicity of faith:**
    - Do you know the facts of the gospel?
    - Have you felt the weight of your sin and desired to be reconciled to God?
    - Have you called on the Lord to save you?
    - These are the elements of faith in Christ.
  - **Look at the evidence that the Spirit of God is working in your life:** He is the downpayment and the rest is yet to come.
- **Question 3:** When we think about our salvation who gets the glory?
  - By grace.
  - Not of ourselves
  - A gift from God
  - Not of our works
  - Our boast should only be in Christ.
- **Challenge:** Let's rejoice in this great salvation.