

“Therefore:” The Logical Lifestyle of a Hopeful Minority
We Believe in Grace Alone (a.k.a., Sovereign Grace)

Ephesians 2:8a
(Page 976 in Chair Bible)
The Lord’s Day Morning
October 9, 2016

In this morning’s text, we see a phrase repeated that Paul used in verse 5: “by grace you have been saved.” In that one short phrase, Paul compresses God’s entire plan of salvation. When you unpack it, with the help of the Apostle Paul’s other letters, you will find ten logical steps in the order of salvation.

The Order of Salvation (*ordo salutis*)

1. **Predestination:** God decided, before the creation of the world, to permit mankind to exercise free will and fall into sin, and to save many (Eph. 1:5).
2. **Election:** God chose, before the creation of the world and unconditionally, whom he would save from sin (Eph. 1:4).
3. **Calling:** God effectively and irresistibly calls the elect to himself through the proclamation of the gospel (Eph. 1:18; 4:1; Ro. 8:30; Jn. 6:44).
4. **Regeneration:** God makes spiritually dead sinners spiritually alive so they are able and willing to respond to the gospel (Eph. 2:5; Jn. 3:5).
5. **Faith:** God gives the regenerated person the ability to believe the gospel and trust Christ (Eph. 2:8).
6. **Repentance:** God grants the desire and ability to turn from sin and idols (Eph. 4:22; 2 Tim. 2:25; Ro. 2:4).
7. **Justification:** God declares the believer to be righteous in his sight based on Christ’s imputed righteousness (Eph. 2:8,9; Ro. 3:24).
8. **Adoption:** God receives the believer into his family, granting family privileges and responsibilities (Eph. 1:5).
9. **Sanctification:** God transforms the believer to become more like Christ in holiness (Eph. 5:27).
10. **Glorification:** God will, at Christ’s return, resurrect believers who have died and change believers who are alive so that they all have perfect resurrection bodies that are like Christ’s (Eph. 4:30; Ro. 8:23).

God’s sovereign grace is displayed in God’s initiative toward his people:

1. God initiates without _____ for our initiative, which would never come.
2. God initiates even though he is not _____ to save anyone.
3. God initiates without violating our _____ never forcing anyone to do what they do not want to do.
4. God initiates by empowering us to responsibly _____ his commands.
5. God initiates by revealing himself to us, yet he is not _____ to explain all of his ways.