

September 30th – Saved by Grace

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:8-10)

These verses tell us how and why God saves lost people. Paul could not have been any clearer: "By grace you have been saved." What is grace? Someone once gave me this definition – **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. Basically, grace is God's gift of salvation to us, but it cost Him the life of His only begotten Son. We receive the grace of God "through faith." The only way anyone can be saved is through faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. That's it!

Some say that faith alone sounds too easy. They say that if we do enough good works, then we will be saved. In fact, it was this issue that caused the Protestant Reformation. The Catholic Church taught (and still teaches) that a person has to work in conjunction with God's grace to experience salvation, while the Protestants (Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, etc.) taught that no one can do enough work to be saved. That's why grace is a gift – it can not be earned. In this case, I think it's clear to see that the Protestants were on the right side of the Bible.

We know how God saved us, but why? Paul tells us that God has had a plan from all of eternity and that we were included in His plan. "We are His workmanship." In other words, He has created us for the purpose of walking in good works. This might seem contradictory to what we've already discussed, but rest assured it is not. We don't do good works because we want to be saved – we do good works because we *are* saved and want to please our Father in all we do. How will you please Him today?