Salvation—God’s Grace

Intro: Our omniscience God knew that man would sin. As such, He also knew that man would need to be reconciled back to Himself by being saved from his sins.

I. Saved By God’s Grace
   A. What is God’s grace?
      1. Grace is favor rendered by one who need not do so; a benefit or blessing; merciful behavior of a more powerful person toward another; a gift.
      2. From a Christian standpoint, it is God’s mercy and favor in God saving man from sin by Jesus Christ.
   B. We are saved by it.
      1. Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
      2. Eph. 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

II. God Made A Plan
   A. Man sinned
      1. Adam and Eve; Gen. 3
      2. All men since:
         a. Psa. 14:3 “They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”
         b. Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
   B. God had a plan in place from eternity to save sinful man.
      1. Eph. 1:4-5 “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,”
      2. 1 Pet. 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”
      3. That plan was the saving of sinful man by Christ.
         a. Eph. 3:11 “According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:”
         b. 1 Pet. 1:18-20 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”
   C. God began revealing that plan from the beginning and through the prophets.
   D. God grace culminated in God sending His Son to die on the cross for sinful mankind.
      1. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
      2. Rom. 8:32 “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

III. God’s Saving Grace Is Not Unconditional
   A. If unconditional, then all would be saved.
      1. God’s saving grace has appeared to all.
      2. Yet, the majority will be lost; Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
B. God's saving grace teaches us:
1. Tit. 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"
2. It teaches that we must obey God's message.
   a. Noah
      (1) Gen. 6:8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD;"
      (2) Gen. 6:9, 22 "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."
   b. Jericho
      (1) Jos. 6:2 "And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour."
      (2) They still had to go around the city seven days; Jos. 6:3-5 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him."
C. Only those in the church of Christ possess God's saving grace.
1. 1 Cor. 1:2-4 "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;"
2. Rom. 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus;"
3. 2 Tim. 2:1 "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
   a. The person outside of Christ has no grace (spiritually) of God.
   b. How we get into Christ:
      (1) Rom. 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"
      (2) Gal. 3:26-27 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Conclusion: We are saved by God's saving grace. However, we must be obedient to appropriate God's grace. Have you obeyed and continued in obedience to God's saving grace?