

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 ⁴¹For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"
2. Eph. 2:8-9 ⁴⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not 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 ⁴³They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one."
 - b. Rom. 3:23 ²³For 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 ⁴⁴According 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: ⁵Having 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 ²Elect 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 ¹¹According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"
 - b. 1 Pet. 1:18-20 ¹⁸Forasmuch 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; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰Who 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 ¹⁶For 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 ³²He 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 ¹³Enter 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: ¹⁴Because 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 ¹¹For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹²Teaching 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 ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
 - (2) Gen. 6:9, 22 ⁹These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.... ²²Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”
 - b. Jericho
 - (1) Jos. 6:2 ²And 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 ³And ye shall compass the city, all *ye* men of war, *and* go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. ⁴And 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. ⁵And 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 ²Unto 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: ³Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;”
2. Rom. 3:24 ²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
3. 2 Tim. 2:1 ¹Thou 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 ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
 - (2) Gal. 3:26-27 ²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For 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?