Saved By Grace Through Faith

Intro: Paul discusses our spiritual state and shows God’s marvelous mercy in the first part of Ephesians 2.

I. OUR PAST CONDITION:
   A. We were dead in trespasses and sins; Eph. 2:1 “1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”
   B. We were in that condition because of the way in which we lived;
      1. Eph. 2:2-3 “2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
      2. We are not born that way.
         a. We are born innocent of any sin:
            (1) Ecc. 7:29 “29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.”
            (2) Psa. 106:37-38 “37 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, 38 And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.”
      b. We reach an age where we have knowledge of our actions and we chose to sin; Isa. 7:15-16 “15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. 16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.”
      c. Nature (v. 3) is “a mode of feeling and acting which by long habit has become nature” (Thayer).
   3. Sin places us in a condition of being dead in trespasses and sins.
      a. Rom. 6:23 “23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      b. Jam. 1:14-15 “14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
   C. They were children of wrath.
      1. Eph. 2:3 “3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
      2. Rom. 1:18 “18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

II. GOD’S MERCY
   A. Eph. 2:4 “4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,”
   B. What God did for us: Eph. 2:5-8 “5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his
kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

C. **We could not do it for ourselves; Eph. 2:9-10** “9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

D. **So grace is vital to our salvation.**
1. Tit. 2:11 “11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
2. Heb. 2:9 “9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

### III. **SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH**

A. **Eph. 2:8** “8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

B. **The “Gift of God.”**
1. This refers to salvation and not faith grammatically.
2. John 6:27 “27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”
3. Heb. 5:9 “9 And being made perfect, he because the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

C. **“Through faith”**
1. It is literally “the faith.”
2. “The faith” is the Word of God.
   a. Acts 6:7 “7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”
   b. Jude 3 “3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

D. **Compare this with Eph. 5:26** “26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
1. “Saved” in 2:8 is the same as “cleanse” in 5:26
3. The cleansing or saved is accomplished by “the washing of water” (5:26)
   a. The washing of water refers to baptism.
   b. The Ephesians conversion included baptism; Acts 19:5 “5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
   c. Mark 16:16 “16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   d. Acts 2:38 “38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   e. 1 Pet. 3:21 “21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

Conclusion: We are saved by God’s marvelous grace but we are saved through the the Word of God when we are baptized in water for salvation.