



SALVATION BY GRACE

As Christians we are told numerous times that we are saved by grace without going into the details of what it means to be saved by grace. We are told that Jesus paid the price for our salvation on the cross for our salvation. We are also assured that when we are saved, we have eternal life with the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are some who even preach that once we are saved, we can continue living in sin, for we are saved by grace. Now this does not make a lot of sense, and it is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches us that we are raised to newness of life and that we need to walk in the new life that the Lord created for us.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesian church a definition of what it means to be saved by grace.

Ephesians 2:1-10

- 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
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.
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quick-

ened 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:

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.

The first verse tells that we are quickened. The Dictionary defines quicken as:

From The Collaborative International Dictionary of English v.0.48 [gcide]:

Quicken \Quick"en\, v. t. [imp. & p. p. {quicken}; p. pr. & vb. n. {Quickening}.] [AS. cwician. See {Quick}, a.]
1. To make alive; to vivify; to revive or resuscitate, as from death or an inanimate state; hence, to excite; to, stimulate; to incite.
[1913 Webster]
The mistress which I serve quickens what's dead.
--Shak.

Thus when we are quickened by the Lord, we are regenerated and made alive. Prior to being born again, we were dead in trespasses and sin. When Christ quickens us, we are raised from the dead to a new life where sin does not reign supreme.

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When you live in sin, you are actually dead! You need to be resurrected to a new life in Christ Jesus to be truly alive. The world thinks that they have freedom to live in sin, where murder, deceit, lying, along with numerous other sins reign supreme. Jesus lifts a new born Christian out of the sin of his life and sets him on a new road: a road of righteousness, where sin becomes an anathema.

Romans 6:4

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Thus the salvation by grace is a resurrection to a totally new life where righteousness and holiness reign supreme. The old ways of sin are past away, while a new life of holiness takes command of our life. So while we thought we were alive before we became born again, in reality, we were really dead requiring resurrection by the savior who overcame death, hell and the grave.

Ephesians 2:2

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:

The sinner who has not received the salvation of Jesus Christ is forced to walk according to the paths of this world. He is condemned to a life filled with sin for he has no other alternative. Before you are filled with the Spirit of Christ, there is no other way for you to walk. You are a slave of sin before you are freed by the power of the Holy Ghost. So until you are filled with the Holy Ghost, you walk in the paths of this world. No matter how righteous you attempt to be, sin still reigns supreme in

your life. Everyone, including this preacher, walked according to the paths of this world before they are filled with the Spirit of God. When you become filled with the Spirit, a new life opens up where the old ways of the world become a curse and the new ways of righteousness become a joy.

Is it any wonder that the sinner who has not been redeemed by the blood of the lamb cannot stop the wickedness that is destroying his life.

Look at Jim McGreevey, governor of New Jersey, who could not control his lusts and adultery. He is the example of a man who is ruled by the powers of Satan and lives a life filled with sin. His destructive ways that tear apart his family and hurt a lot of others is an example of someone who is a slave to sin. Jesus frees you from that sin-filled life where you do not have to walk in the ways of this world. There is only one hope for Jim McGreevey, and that is to repent and seek the Holy Ghost which the Lord freely gives.

Ephesians 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.

Verse three shows that sinners fulfill all of the lusts of the flesh and are by nature the children of wrath. To the natural mind this does not make a lot of sense, but if you think of the sinners rejecting the free gift of salvation offered by Jesus Christ our Lord, you can see how they are the children of wrath. Though they cannot help their sinful ways, they can still ask the Lord to take control of their lives. So when sinners refuse the salvation offered by the Lord, they are the children of wrath because they have refused the free gift of God. If

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they open their hearts to the Lord, then they will see that there is another way and that they don't have to be controlled by the lusts of their flesh. Those who refuse the free gift of God are inviting eternal damnation upon themselves.

Can you imagine the wrath of God, when he has done everything to save you from the wiles of the devil only to have his gift rejected? This is why the world is treasuring up wrath until the day of wrath.

Romans 2:1-5

1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Those who have heard the Gospel and refuse the message are treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath for themselves. When the gift of God is rejected, you can expect that you will face the wrath of God.

Ephesians 2:4

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great

love wherewith he loved us,

God has given us an alternative to either accept his free gift of redemption, resurrection, and salvation or to reject that free gift. God loves us so much, that he paid the price for our redemption. So those who have told God that they don't want the gift freely offered are now subject to his divine wrath.

Ephesians 2:5

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Christ gives us life even when we are dead. He has given us an alternative to living a life of sin. Christ's divine grace gives us life when we accept the gift. When you accept the gift of grace, you are given freedom from the life of sin that causes so much pain and anguish. Jim McGreevey has shown by his actions that he has not accepted freedom from sin, but has chosen a life bound by sin. He has chosen to be a slave of that old serpent, the devil.

Ephesians 2:6

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Just look at the place where we are invited to sit when we accept the free gift of grace. This is better than any seat at any state dinner at the White House. We are offered a seat at the creator's table. This is a greater honor than anything that the world has to offer. Jesus has risen us up above what this world offers.

Ephesians 2:7

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

As time goes by, even these 2000 years, the grace of God prevails. The kindness of God

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even extends down to us today.

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Whereas this is often quoted without the preceding verses, it is the preceding verses that give the details of what Paul was talking about. We need to be quickened from the death that the world offers. We need to be risen to newness of life by Jesus Christ. God's free gift is for you today if you accept his gift. Are you willing to be free from the ravages of sin? Are you satisfied with your life? Do you want a better life? Jesus is offering you the same free gift today!

Ephesians 2:9

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The righteousness of the saints is the righteousness of Jesus Christ working through the

lives of those who accepted his free gift. There is nothing that we can do on our own. When you allow Jesus to work through you, your life will be different and you will never have to say, "I can't help myself."

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

When we are born again, we become new creatures in Christ Jesus. We are his new creation doing the work of God. When you are born again the old life of sin is no more the controller of your life. All things are become new in Jesus Christ the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

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Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

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