

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"When Faith Works"
Ephesians 2:8-10
Study-7

Something about the human nature that wants to hide the truth! The truth that is spelled out for us in our passage is **God's revelation. We cannot save ourselves. We do not have the ability to make ourselves righteous before God.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

From start to finish, salvation is of God and from God.

He gives two positives, the means – It is God's grace, and through faith. Then two negatives – Not of self, none will boast. Then defines good works.

Thought Of The Passage: "By Grace We Are Saved Through Faith, Apart From Works, By A Faith That Works."

1. Verse 8 – Grace

2. Verse 8 – Faith

3. Verses 8-10 – Works

1. Verse 8 – Grace:

Ephesians 2:8 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;"

Paul Previously Said We Are Saved By Grace – Ephesians 2:5 – "(by grace you have been saved)." Now, verse 8 – "For by grace you have been saved... it is the gift of God;"

"Grace" – "good will, loving-kindness, favor;" "unearned, undeserved, it is the favor of God bestowed upon the undeserving;" "God's riches at Christ's expense."

This is where Christianity must part from the religions of the world.
Christianity – Says Done! Religion – Says Do!

"Mormonism" – "The Church Of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints;" Founder Joseph Smith Jr. said that the Church has been apostate for 1800 years. He received this revelation from an angel. Galatians 1:8-9 – "another gospel." Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer. Our God now was Adam; Good works and being a good Mormon.

“Jehovah’s Witnesses” – “Watchtower Society;” Founder Charles Taze Russell. Jesus is really Michael the angel; Saved by works; Jesus is not God, creature, Holy Spirit a force. The Jehovah’s Witnesses record currently holds at nine predictions. The years are: 1874, 1878, 1881, 1910, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1975, and 1984. Watchtower society is god’s spokesman.

“Scientology” – Founder L. Ron Hubbard; Fictional Author over 600 Stories. Scientologists believe that people are immortal alien beings (Thetans), who have forgotten their true nature and are trapped on earth in a human body. Scientologists believe that each thetan has lived numerous past lives, both on earth in our physical bodies, and on other planets. Scientologists also believe that by undergoing a series of classes and teachings (called auditing by the church), people can free themselves of their human form and reclaim their true selves.

“Christian Science” – Founder Mary Baker Eddy. Christian Science teaches that God-Father-Mother of all – is completely good and wholly spiritual and that all God’s creation, including the true nature of every person, is the flawless spiritual likeness of the Divine. Since God’s creation is good, evils such as disease, death, and sin cannot be a part of fundamental reality. Rather, these evils are the result of living apart from God. Prayer is a central way to come closer to God and heal human ills.

“it is the gift of God” – “a gift, a present;” this is the same as saying “grace.” The gift is salvation (Not earned); Faith is the means by which the grace of salvation is received.

Romans 6:23

2. Verse 8 – Faith:

Ephesians 2:8 – “been saved through faith;”

“through faith;” – What Paul does not mean by faith!:

Faith Is Not A Subjective Feeling.

Faith Is Not Gullible – a person will accept a thing as true apart from evidence simply because they want it to be true.

Faith Is Not Optimism – faith is a positive mental attitude, the thing we believe in is supposed to happen.

Mark 9:23; Matthew 17:20

“faith” – “to believe, conviction of the truth, assurance, the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and giver of eternal salvation through Christ, the predominate idea of trust.”

James 2:19

Faith involves Knowledge, Heart Response, and Commitment:

- **Knowledge** – This must be first, because how can you believe in something that you don’t know about? This knowledge is the Gospel that we have been talking about in Ephesians 2.
- **Heart Response** – faith is not just an intellectual assent of certain truths. It is a response to such knowledge. It is there to drive out temptation, to cling to.
- **Commitment** – This is trust, casting yourself upon Jesus Christ, resting on His promises and accepting the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

3. Verses 8-10 – Works:

Ephesians 2:8 – “and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;”

“and that not of yourselves,” – Paul makes clear that our part is to place our faith in Jesus, John 6:28-29.

“it is the gift of God;” – The point being, it is not earned but freely given by God.

Ephesians 2:9 – “not as a result of works,” – Salvation is either by “works” or it is by “grace.” So, He says 2X “not as a result of works,” and “that not of yourselves,”

Israel is a living example of God’s Grace: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

The thief on the cross with Jesus wanted salvation, Luke 23:42-43.

Isaiah 64:6

“so that no one may boast.” – Boasting is the response to what we have accomplished.

Isaiah 42:8

Hebrews 11:32

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are His workmanship," – Greek word – "poiema;" We get the word "Poem;" Thing that is made – workmanship, a work of art, a masterpiece.

1. The Word – 1 Thessalonians 2:13

2. Prayer – To empower us, to enlighten us to His will.

3. Suffering – Make us like Jesus, it drives us right back to the Word and prayer.

"created in Christ Jesus" – literally, "to make habitable."

Jeremiah 18:2-4

"for good works," – We are not saved from good works, but saved for good works.

James 2:17-26

God must always work in us before he works through us.

"which God prepared beforehand, so that we would walk in them." –

"Beforehand" – God has a blueprint for every child of God, fruit, helping others, sharing His Word and the giving of ourselves to Him.

Application:

1. Tim Keller said, "Religion Makes Us Proud Of What We Have Done. The Gospel Makes Us Proud Of What Jesus Has Done."
2. Faith – Is The Conviction Of The Truth, Assurance, The Conviction That God Exists And Is The Creator And Ruler Of All Things, The Provider And Giver Of Eternal Salvation Through Christ.
3. Works Will Never Justify One Before God. Works Are Evidence That One Has Been Justified By Faith. Ephesians 2:10