

Ephesians 2:8-9

F	K	L	S	R	M	W	A	Z	A	P	Z	M	A	Q	U	Q	P
O	D	L	U	O	H	S	N	N	X	I	J	N	B	W	P	P	Y
T	F	S	O	V	P	N	W	E	S	M	D	A	X	I	M	K	S
Q	H	A	M	G	Q	H	O	U	N	X	K	C	T	H	E	W	E
K	N	A	Q	N	B	O	W	T	Y	I	J	Y	S	A	K	Z	V
H	V	C	T	O	G	F	W	I	N	P	S	A	V	E	D	B	L
K	O	O	A	U	H	Z	A	O	C	E	X	A	F	U	R	B	E
J	T	S	T	O	U	Q	P	I	R	B	V	M	T	D	V	Z	S
Y	T	O	F	H	L	E	S	T	T	K	Y	P	J	F	S	G	R
W	N	J	C	N	B	B	L	N	K	H	S	Q	S	P	R	V	U
M	L	C	B	I	Q	N	Z	R	X	Z	K	X	Q	D	W	Q	O
A	Y	N	A	R	H	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	B	O	L	U	Y
N	W	R	F	B	S	N	F	F	T	U	H	R	Q	G	F	Y	V
F	H	G	T	M	F	F	A	K	K	P	N	O	T	X	N	S	G
Q	T	R	K	T	A	P	U	J	T	P	J	E	N	F	L	Z	M
A	H	A	T	A	N	W	T	I	O	M	R	F	Q	O	I	G	V
P	G	C	D	S	Y	E	B	Y	H	A	S	O	N	I	T	G	X
X	F	E	O	J	U	B	C	S	B	N	A	R	B	S	F	O	I

Words to Find: For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God

not of works lest any man should boast.

The Bible View



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Grace, Not Good Deeds

Bill Brinkworth

In Ephesians 2, Paul addresses converted Gentiles (vs. 11), and he reminds them of the most important points of how they became a Christian. This crucial step has eluded many religions, even some “Christian” denominations. The distinctions that separate a lost, even religious, person from a saved person are that:

* A saved person is saved by grace through faith (vs. 8), by the fact that Jesus died on the cross and paid for their sins. Grace is “free, unmerited love” from God. A person is saved, not because one is good looking, worthy of salvation due to superior intelligence, or an exceptional person. All are saved because God is good, and He loves us; and it has nothing to do with who we are. If we will make the first step to believe Jesus died for our sins, God’s love will do the rest. We have to go first, not wait to have some kind of proof; but do as a child

does when he believes what his parents tell him. The child simply believes and obeys; so must we do and trust what God has told us.

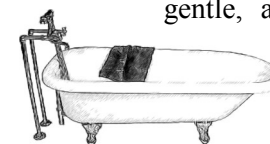
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8 A “gift” is freely given and does not include a price to the recipient.

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Not All Our Doing

Bill Brinkworth

In advising Titus what he should preach, Paul defined how a Christian’s new character should be in Titus 3. A Christian should strive not to talk negatively about anyone, not fight with others, be gentle, and be meek



(Titus 3:2). Sometimes people that have been saved for a while agree that the Lord has changed them, but they forget how they were before Jesus made a difference in their lives.

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Grace, Not Good Deeds

Bill Brinkworth

✱ We are saved because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. There is nothing we can do to earn God's approval (vs. 9), other than trusting Christ as Saviour. No amount of good works, kindness, or religious mumbo-jumbo will get us higher than the coffin lid. We cannot earn our way, because the ticket has already been paid. Trying to do something to earn salvation is negating the trusting by faith we must do.

"Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:9

However, doing deeds according to what Scripture commands; doing what we can do for the cause of Christ, or bringing honor to God after we are saved is the right thing to do for Him (vs. 10). A born-again person is saved to serve, not to just sit and soak in God's goodness.

Many nod their head in agreement to Ephesians 2:8-9, but do not connect what it says to what they may be doing or believing. The whole point of the two verses is there is nothing we can do to earn heaven. We must only trust what God has

already done for us. Yet, even biblical doctrines have been turned into good works people hope will make them worthy of heaven. Countless people and religious leaders have clarified their salvation as "Of course I am going to heaven, I have been baptized", "I tithe", "help the poor", "have done the sacraments", "live a good life", or "I obey the rules of my church". Some of them may be good works that will please God after one is saved, but none are good works to get one saved and to heaven. Those deeds become conditions added to what God said to do in Eph. 2:8-9. It is faith only that will get one God's promise of heaven. You cannot add anything to it.

Not All Our Doing

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In verse three, Paul reminds Titus of what we used to do (vs. 3). Shamefully, we all have to nod our head in agreement that our sin was great before we were saved. We still, after we were saved, are not perfect; but God does change the believer.

"To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." Titus 3:2

These changes in our lives

are not our doing. It is not we that did the changing without God's help. For those that think they are a better person after they are saved because of their own doing, they are mistaken (vs. 5).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" Titus 3:5

Many feel they have to "clean up" their lives first and then get saved. The problem is we cannot change our natural state ourselves. We can clean up the outside. We can look like a Christian, talk like a Christian, and go to places a Christian should go to; but that does not give us a Christian's heart. In most cases, man does not even know what is wrong with him to begin with. Only God can change the inside of man to what it should be.

After we are saved, it is the Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sins. After He shows us what our weaknesses and sins are, it is He that helps us change. He is the one that renovates our heart ("regeneration" — vs. 5), usually one sin at a time. Only the Holy Spirit can change a person from a natural state to a spiritual one.

When we submit to the Holy Spirit's guidance, we will be a changed person. We will never be perfect until we get to heaven; but if we obey His guidance, we

will not be the person we once were.

Nothing We Have Done

Anthony Burgess, 1871

It is not our divinity, morality, or our doing good works that can make us "good". We are by God's grace made good, then we do good.

A man must first be saved before he can bear Godly fruit, as a tree must first have a strong root and growth, before it can bear fruit.

"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."

Mat. 12:33

Rotten Covering

John Bates

As a man walking over a rotten covering of a deep pit will, in all probability, fall in and be killed; so the man who trusts in his good works to get to heaven will find that they are all rottenness, and will give way under him, and sink him into the punishment of hell.

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isa. 64:6

"All the religions of the world teach that getting to Heaven is either through doing good works or by God's grace. The Bible says it is only grace that will get anyone there."