

# Salvation is by the Grace of God

Ephesians 2:4–10

May 5, 2024  
Rev. Philip Bubar

## Introduction

1. What would you say is the biggest misconception or false belief about salvation?
2. What would be some haunting questions?

### I. Know What We Were: Spiritually Dead, v.1–3

- A. We were dead to God because of our sin, v1.
- B. We were dead to God because we lived in alliance with the world, v.2–3.
- C. We were dead to God because we deserved His wrath, v.3.

### II. Trust the Provision: God Makes Us Alive, v.4–7.

- A. What we are: Alive in Christ, v.5.
  1. What God did for us: He made us alive with Christ.
  2. When God did this for us: While we were dead in our transgressions, our sins.
- B. Why this is true:
  1. Because of God's own nature, v.4-5.
    - a. He is loving.
      - A more literal translation: "Because of His much love, He loved us."
    - b. He is merciful.
      - When love is directed towards people who are in need, that love is called mercy!
    - c. He is gracious.
      - Grace: favor that is not deserved.
  2. Because of God's purpose, v.6-7.
    - a. For us: to position us with Christ, v.6.
      - 1) He raised us up with Christ.
      - 2) He seated us with Christ in the heavenly realms.
    - b. For Himself: To demonstrate His glorious abundant grace, v.7.

### III. Respond to the Provision, v.8–10.

- A. What salvation is, v.8.
  1. It is being rescued.
  2. It is a gift from God.
    - A true gift is given freely to the recipient at the cost of the giver.  
Romans 6:23  
*For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
Romans 5:8  
*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

3. It is by God's grace.

4. It is through faith.

John 1:11,12

*He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.*

*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name,*

*he gave the right to become children of God*

a. This gift of salvation is received by faith.

b. Paul then adds the phrase "and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

c. Think this through:

1) What is the "this" in this phrase?

a) Does it mean that the grace is not from ourselves?

b) Does it mean the faith is not from ourselves? That's a better meaning.

(1) Even the faith to believe is a gift from God.

(a) The problem with that idea is that the word faith is feminine and the pronoun, "this" is neuter.

(b) Grammatically, if the word "this" was in the feminine, that would make Paul's statement absolutely clear, that even the faith to believe isn't from ourselves.

1. Some Greek scholars take it that way even though it is awkward.

2. It's true that we must not look at our salvation as if God brings grace to our salvation and we bring our trust or faith to our salvation.

c) It seems best that the "this" applies to salvation in general, that which Paul has been writing.

(1) He is piling on the fact that from start to finish our salvation is not from anything we do.

(2) This salvation is not from ourselves.

(3) Being rescued from our sin is all of God. It is His free gift to us!

2) Bottom line:

Salvation is not of us and yet it includes, somehow, this faith response from our hearts, by which salvation is received.

B. What salvation is not, v.9.

1. It is not by works.

2. It is not a means of boasting.

C. What salvation produces: Good works, v.10.

1. Because of what we are.

a. We are God's handiwork.

• This Greek word gives us our English word "poem."

b. We are God's creation in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:*

*The old has gone, the new is here!*

2. Because it is our God-given purpose.

## **Conclusion - Application**