



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

By Grace Ye Are Saved!

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-9

Being saved by grace means that:

1. We have received a gift from God that we do not deserve.
2. We are saved from the consequences of our sins through the gift of salvation freely given to us by God.
3. Despite our imperfections and sins, we have received redemption, forgiveness, and eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul emphasizes that we do not need to live any longer under sin's power. The penalty of sin and its power over us were destroyed by Christ on the cross. Through faith in Christ, we stand acquitted, or not guilty, before God. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

We become children of God through God's unmerited grace, not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, charity, and goodness, and not merely please ourselves. While no action or "**work**" we do can help us obtain salvation, God's intention is that our salvation will result in acts of service. We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and build up the church.

God has made His grace available for all who have "*had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind*" (Ephesians 2:3). According to Romans 3:23, we are all included: "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*" Thankfully, that is not the final word on the matter. Paul continued his thought: "*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 3:24). **This free and undeserved grace saves all of us from living a life governed by sin and the authority of the evil one.**

God recognizes our predicament as human beings and, in His great love, offers us rescue and redemption. "*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*" (Ephesians 2:4-5).

When we are outmatched and incapable of conquering sin, the kingdom of darkness, and death on our own. Not even our religious activities can save us. We do not earn our salvation by our good deeds: how many hours we have banked in prayer or meals we have missed by fasting. A fully completed Bible reading chart or perfect attendance on the church roll does not bring about salvation. **While these spiritual disciplines are some signs of a transforming disciple, only God's grace saves us.**

Perhaps the familiar saying like "**you can't get something for nothing**" has distorted our understanding of the biblical concept of grace. The influence of our contemporary way of thinking may cause us to think of our relationship with God as transactional—"**I must do spiritual activity X to get God to love me.**" This type of mentality can turn God's grace into something to be earned, yet this is entirely opposite of what grace means. **Grace is undeserved and unearned; grace is a gift we receive.**

Acknowledging that our salvation does not depend on us requires humility. The apostle Peter instructed: "*Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble*" (1 Peter 5:5). A strong and necessary link exists between grace and humility. Humility acknowledges, "**I am not perfect.**" Humility understands our need for growth and improvement. Humility allows us to accept grace because humility allows us to truly repent. Thankfully, God's view of us is not from an earthly perspective; He sees our truest identity—God created us in His image, for His purpose, by His design. **God's actions toward us are not motivated by our labels but by His love.**

God's grace is free. No one is required to work, earn it or retain it. **It is an all-inclusive, no-strings-attached, free gift from God.** We cannot save ourselves or remove the stubborn stain of one single sin. We need His grace. Thankfully, He is as willing to give His grace to us. Let us humble ourselves, admit we need Him, repent of our sin, be born again, and live out our lives in full view of His glorious, cleansing, healing grace. Our stories testify that God is gracious to all.