

For ye are saved by...

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works (*no one can be saved by their own merits*), lest any man should boast. 10 For we (*Christians*) are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (*the works that God would have us do*).

- Were it not for the grace of **God** in the first place, no person on the face of the earth could be saved from an eternity of absolute anguish. But is that where it ends? We are all personally responsible for our own souls when it comes to answering this very important question. Without even one of the many steps involved in achieving our salvation, some of which will be discussed here, it would be impossible to receive **God's** gracious gift of eternal life.

1Ti 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; **continue in them**: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Grace

Rom 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

- According to Thayer: “*the New Testament writers use χάρις pre-eminently of that kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offences, and bids them accept of eternal salvation through Christ*”. So how **do** we “accept” **God's** unmerited favor? What is it that we need to do to gain it? And how do we become a part of the remainder that **God** has selected ?

We just had elections. What if those who were elected to office did nothing toward being elected in the first place? We elect candidates according to certain works that we expect of them! Not what they **feel** will get them elected (*their works*) but by what is expected of them. And even after they get elected, if they don't continue doing the people's work, they can be thrown out of office. The same is true with **God** and the church.

1Pe 1:2 Elect (*Gk.1588- select; by implication favorite: -chosen, elect.*)[*this is spiritual Israel, the church*] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification (*Gk.38- purification, that is, [the state] purity*) of the Spirit, unto (*Gk.1519- purpose*) obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

- A person is of the elect group once they are purified. The body of believers, the church, has always been what constitutes the election of **God** and not the individual since there is only one way into the body of **Christ**. And everyone that is of that one way automatically is added to the remnant of believers.

Act 2:47 ... And the **Lord added** to the church daily **such as should be saved** (“*those who were being saved*” –GNB).

So, what **must** I do to be saved and added to the church?

Act 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. *(He would have been responsible to the point of having to serve out all the sentences of those who would have escaped the prison during his watch.)* 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?** 31 And they said, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

- **Believe-** Gk.4100- *to have faith* (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing) that is, *credit*; by implication to *entrust* (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ). Before a person can accept God's unmerited favor there is a need to totally entrust their eternal soul to Christ and His power to wash their sins away through His blood.

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

- Once a person has humbly relinquished all of self to become obedient to the message of hope in Christ, there must exist the desire to please Him and do **whatever** His word demands **without** compromise! The act of obedience is a work on our part but the act of saving us is the work of God, but only through Christ's blood.

Act 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves** from this untoward generation.

- See! We have a part in our salvation!

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and **have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

- Their washing shows **their** participation (*obedience*) and Christ's blood is the cleansing agent that bleaches away the stain of sin. But how do we "wash our robes" in order to have our sins remitted?

Luk 11:28 But he said, **Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.**

- **keep-** Gk.5442- through the idea of *isolation*; to *watch*; by implication to **preserve, obey.**

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and **now is**, when the *dead shall ***hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.**

- **dead-** Gk.3498- According to Thayer: "[spiritually dead i.e.] destitute of a life that recognizes and is devoted to God, because given up to trespasses and sins; inactive as

respects doing right”. Once dead there’s no chance of a “do-over”. The day that the dead are called and resurrected will be the day of judgment.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour **is coming**, in the which **all** that are in the graves (*dead physically*) shall **hear** His voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done **good**, unto the resurrection of **life**; and they that have done **evil**, unto the resurrection of **damnation**.

- **hear**- Gk.191- Thayer: “to perceive by the ear what is announced in one’s presence”. We have the opportunity, before it’s too late, to hear and obey the voice of Jesus through the message of the gospel. But **then** (*at the resurrection*) His voice will be the call of all people to the judgment when it **will** be too late for many. Obviously this doesn’t include infants and children. Can a child understand or be accountable for sin?

Mat 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for **of such is the kingdom of heaven** (*where God sits on His throne*).

Mat 6:10 Thy kingdom come (*the church- Acts 2*). **Thy will be done** in earth, **as it is in heaven**.

- What is it that children have in common with the church (*kingdom*) and the will of God in Heaven?

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth (*together, according to the Greek, equals a higher plain of existence, i.e., Heaven*), **wherein dwelleth *righteousness**.

- **righteousness**- Gk.1343 from 1342- *innocent*. God’s will exists on earth through the church. When a sinner has taken the incentive to wash his garment in the blood of Christ thus removing all sin, he becomes as innocent as a child, he is a new babe. Therefore children, according to Jesus, are innocent concerning the will of God and thus “safe”.

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 **As obedient children**, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (*Gk.391-behavior*); 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

- How is it then that we are to “wash or garments” in order to remove the stains of sin? After the **Philippian** jailer asked “*what must I do to be saved*” and was given a lesson on things that were known and taught by Paul and Silas (*i.e., the great commission*), notice

what happened after he had taken them home and nursed their wounds. He and those of his household were baptized ***straightway!**

- **straightway-** Gk.3916- *instantly*: -forthwith, immediately. Paul himself relayed his conversion to the people how he was told by Ananias earlier...

Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

- **tarriest-** Gk.3195- *hesitation*. Not that Paul would have hesitated. Ananias understood the necessity of immersion for the forgiveness of sins and the importance of an immediate response once the penitent sinner understood the consequence of not obeying the great commission of Christ.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 **Teaching** them to observe **all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always (*“all the days” –YTL*), even unto the end of the world (Gk.165- *age*). Amen.

- As an obedient apostle of Christ, Peter on the day of Pentecost obeyed his Lord’s command and taught those present to “observe all things whatsoever” he was commanded to teach.

Act 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, ...

Act 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.

Act 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Act 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart (*their collective consciences were so disturbed because they had consorted to the death of the prophesied Christ they had been earnestly expecting*), and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves** from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word **were baptized**: and the same day there were **added** *unto them* about three thousand souls.

- But I thought that God’s grace was “Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph 2:9) Remember, salvation is a work of God and obedience is in doing our part to receive that salvation. Therefore baptism (*immersion in water- Acts 8:38; Jn 3:23*) is a work of God

whereby, through man's obedience, He saves us. It's where we wash our robes in Christ's blood thus putting Him on as a spotless garment.

Gal 3:25 But after that faith (*Gk.4102- the system of religious [Gospel] truth itself*) is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ** (*and thus have enter Him*).

Joh 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.** 8 **All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.** 9 **I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,** and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** 11 **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.**

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.**

- All that came before, and have come since, Jesus preaching some other way to Heaven are to be considered outright liars! They are come as "ministers of Satan" (*2 Cor 11:15*) to rob the very souls of mankind. But there's more. Once we have been added to the church there is a need to remain faithful. And faithful isn't just being in the assembly every first day of the week, although that is necessary to our faithfulness according to Hebrews 10:24-25...

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke (*urge, because of the importance of good works to our salvation*) unto love and to good works ("*created in Christ Jesus unto good works*"- *Eph 2:8*): 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

But another aspect to being faithful has to do with the great commission. Which would include seeking the lost as was Jesus' concern (*good works*).

Luk 19:10 **For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

It also includes being prepared once we find some lost searching soul.

Act 17:11 These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily,** whether those things were so.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- study- *Gk.4704- to use speed, that is, to make effort, be prompt or earnest: -do (give) diligence, endeavor, labor.*

1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow** thereby:

And nowhere in the Bible does it teach the false doctrine of “*once saved always saved*”. Therefore, we are constantly in need of the blood of Christ which requires our constant obedience to God’s will.

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we **walk** in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanseth** us from all sin.

In conclusion.

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: 1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth also now save us..."

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature (*God's spiritual DNA*), having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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November 18, 2012

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