

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

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Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.

If you were to stand before God tonight and He were to ask you, “why should I let you into my heaven?” what would you say?

The most common answer given by people goes something like this. ‘Well, I’ve been a pretty good person. I haven’t done too much wrong in my life. I always try to help others’ ...etc.

Others may say, ‘well, I don’t think I would deserve to go to heaven because of all the bad I have done’.

Some years ago, I held afternoon teas at my home where people could bring their family and friends to discuss the gospel.

One man came for several weeks, but when I shared, we are saved by grace rather than by works, he balked. He just couldn’t grasp it.

Surely, a person ought to be and do good to go to heaven.

One day Jesus was confronted by a rich man who asked Him, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?'

Luke 18:18-27

The key here is in the man's question. What must I do??

Jesus was trying to show him he could do nothing to merit eternal life. He claimed to have kept the law.

Jesus shows his shortfall. His wealth was symbolic of His achievements and to him a sign of God's favour upon his life.

This is what he trusted in. It was all about his merit before God through his works of which he boasted.

vs 27. What is impossible with man is possible with God.

So, no amount of good works merit salvation.

Why?

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23

Neither does salvation come through keeping the law.

Note, the rich man, above, boasted about keeping the law.

Galatians 2:16 (amp) ...yet we know that a man is not justified [and placed in right standing with God] by works of the Law, but [only] through faith in [God's beloved Son,] Christ Jesus. And even we [as Jews] have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law. By observing the Law no one will ever be justified [declared free of the guilt of sin and its penalty].

vs 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

The purpose of the Law (The OT moral law given to Moses).

To reveal the holy character of God.
(Leviticus 19:2; 20:7-8).

To reveal how to love God and your neighbour
(Matthew 22:40).

To point out that we are sinful *(Romans 3:20)*. The Bible shines a light on our sinfulness.

I like Spurgeon's advice. *'If any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him. For you are worse than he thinks you to be.'*

To point us to our need of the Saviour

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Salvation is, therefore, a 'free' gift.

This is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God (*Ephesians 1:8*).

And you can't earn a gift.

It's a gift from God to us, but at a great cost to Him, through the sacrifice of Christ, His Son.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

This is what the rich man needed to do.

Are you saved? Are you going to heaven?
There is only one way!

If we trust in anything else other than Jesus for our salvation, we miss out.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Acts 16:31 So, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.