

By Grace Are Ye Saved

Folk everywhere are seeking new ways to receive salvation and thus go to Heaven. Some of the ways in which they do this are to attend church; give a little money once in a while; live a good, clean, moral life, or do good works in general. They believe that in themselves they are able to earn their way to Heaven.

Alas, but they are all wrong, for the Word of God says, "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." {Ephesians 2:8-9} You see my friend, salvation is a free gift from God; we can't do anything to earn it. From the very beginning we were sinners {"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Ro. 3:23} not even seeking after God {"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." Ro. 3:11}, living a depraved life {Ro. 3:12-18}. The result of a wicked and sinful life is death (spiritual) {"For the wages of sin is death;" Ro. 6:23a}, but praise God, salvation is offered to all who seek forgiveness of sin and receive Jesus Christ as Saviour; "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." {1 Jn. 1:9}.

Even though we did not love God, yet He loved us, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." {1 Jn. 4:10} and sent His Son to die on the Cross {"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." Jn. 3:16} that we, through the shedding of Christ's blood might have remission of sins. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." {He. 9:12,22} God did this for us because He is not willing (that is, does not want) that any should perish, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." {2 Pe. 3:9}

What does all of this mean in terms of God's grace? Simply this, we cannot within ourselves do anything to save ourselves. Grace is the bestowal of unmerited favor by God to us. Someone has said that the word "grace" stands for "**God's Riches At Christ's Expense.**" How True!

Dear one, there is no need to spend eternity in hell. Christ has made full payment for your sins by shedding His precious blood on the Cross of Calvary. To have the forgiveness of sin and receive eternal life through Christ, all you need to do is confess to God that you are a sinner, ask for forgiveness and for Jesus Christ to come into your heart and save you. If you will do this, you will be saved for all eternity {"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 1 Jn. 5:11-13}. Then seek out a good independent, fundamental, Bible believing and Bible preaching church. Attend it regularly that you might be spiritually fed from God's Word to help you grow spiritually strong. Will you this moment receive Christ as your personal Saviour?

Richard A. Ciarrocca