Saved By Grace

Grace has been defined as "unmerited favor." Hence, when we think of one being saved by the grace of God, we have in mind His divine favor and redemptive mercy by which, and because of which, sinners become the recipients of heaven's numerous blessings. God supplied for man what man could not supply for himself. He supplied grace and, through His grace, He sent His *"only begotten Son"* (John 3:16) *"to be a propitiation"* (Rom. 3:25) whereby sin could be covered and remitted. Consequently, we may be *"justified by His grace through the <u>redemption</u> that is **in Christ Jesus"*** (Rom. 3:24), who is *"the gift by grace"* (Rom. 5:15).

Therefore, in order for one to be saved by the grace of God he must approach God t**hrough** Jesus Christ because He (Christ) is *"the way, the truth, and the life,"* outside of Whom *"no man cometh unto the Father"* (John 14:6). It is *"to the praise of the glory of His grace wherein He hath made us accepted"* in Christ *"in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace…"* (Eph, 1:6,7).

Thus, we learn that God's grace abounded (Rom. 5:20), and in the abundance of that grace, He sent His Son, Who shed His blood that we might *"have redemption through His blood."* Hence, if we are to receive the benefits of His grace, we must contact the **blood** of Christ *"In Whom"* is *"redemption"* (Ephesians 1:7).

But **how** does one reach the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ was shed in the death of Christ (John 19:34). So, in order to contact the blood of Christ, one must contact **the death** of Christ wherein His blood was shed. Paul declared that those who were baptized into Christ were <u>baptized</u> *"**into His death"*** (Rom. 6:3). This, incidentally, explains why the unsaved believers on the day of Pentecost were told to *"repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins…"* (Acts 2:38).

This further explains how one is saved by grace *"through faith"* (Eph. 2:8). By **hearing** the preaching of *"the gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20:24), one acquires **faith** (Rom. 10:17); he becomes filled with *"godly sorrow"* for sin which leads to **repentance** (2 Cor. 7:10), and in acknowledgement of that faith (**confession**—Acts 8:37), he is **baptized** into the death of Christ (Rom. 6:3), whereupon he contacts the blood of Christ and by which his sins are washed away (Acts 22:16).

One is saved by grace *"through faith"* (Eph. 2:8). Grace is the **divine** side of salvation. Faith is the **human** side of salvation. God's grace was manifested in the sending of His Son. Our faith is manifested in our obedience to the *"gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20:24), which involves our being *"baptized into Christ"* (Gal. 3:27), *"in whom"* is *"salvation"* (2 Tim. 2:10), and apart from whom *"no man cometh unto the Father"* (John 14:6). Have you been saved by grace? Not unless your faith has been manifested by your complete obedience to *"the gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20:24; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 7:21). Remember this: one is not saved by "grace only" nor by "faith only." He is saved by grace *"through faith"* when that faith is manifested in **obedience** to the gospel. Thank God for Jesus Christ Who *"became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey Him"*** (Heb. 5:9).
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