

Saved to Serve

July 11th & 12th, 2015

Ephesians 2:8-10

Grace is the life transforming power of God!

1 Corinthians 15:10 “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

❖ Grace saves us!

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

➤ We are saved by Grace.

Saved: (Greek – *Sozo*) Deliverance from the wrath of God; from the bondage of sin and Satan; from danger or suffering. (Excerpts from Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)¹

♦ The Grace of God is evident throughout the Scriptures.

Noah ⇒ *Genesis 6:8* “But Noah found favor [grace] in the eyes of the LORD.”

Elijah ⇒ *1 Kings 19:18* God kept a remnant by His grace! *Romans 11:2-6*

The early church ⇒ *Acts 15:11* Jews and Gentiles were saved by grace!

➤ Our salvation is not of our own doing or works

“through faith”

♦ Faith is not the key word in this passage – Grace is. God gives us the faith to respond to His grace!
Romans 12:3 “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

♦ We are justified by God’s grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (*Romans 3:24*) and now through faith we have access into all of the riches of God’s immeasurable grace where we have power, strength, training, gifting, and freedom!

Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Grace is God’s power to serve Him and is made perfect in our weaknesses!

2 Corinthians 12:9 “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

❖ Grace provides us with spiritual power to serve His calling and purpose!

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

f We are saved to served!

➤ Spiritual Gifts

📖 *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

Gifts: (Greek – *Charismaton*) “The usual word for one of the extraordinary endowments the Spirit confers on men. The word is from the same root as the great Christian word ‘grace’, *charis*.”²

- ♦ Spiritual gifts and Grace
Romans 12:6 “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”
- ♦ God’s church was supernaturally born and is supernaturally sustained!
- ♦ The Spiritual gifts are given to us for the “common good”.
1 Corinthians 12:7,24-26 “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

➤ Good Works

📖 Titus 3:1-8

- ♦ We are His workmanship!
f God has designed and equipped us!
Paul ⇒ *1 Corinthians 15:10 “But by the grace of God I am what I am...”*
Bezalel & Oholiab ⇒ *Exodus 31:1-6; Exodus 35: 30; Exodus 36:1-2*
Peter ⇒ *Acts 4:8 “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ...”*
- ♦ We are to serve one another!
Galatians 5:13-15 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.”
- ♦ God has gifted us to serve.
📖 1 Peter 4:7-11
- ♦ God warns us not to neglect our gifts and talents! *Matthew 25:14-30*

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.”

Endnotes

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

² Morris, Leon. *The First epistle of Paul to the Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983. (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

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