

THE GRACE AND WORKS CONFUSION

Ephesians 2:4-10

Introduction:

A. Grace and works

1. S_____ is by grace not by works.
2. A person who does good things in order to be saved is c_____.
3. A person who does not do good is condemned as a s_____.

B. Today's lesson goal

1. To see the proper relationship between grace and works.
2. To evaluate our own life in the area of grace and works.
3. To make the appropriate adjustments in everyday living.

Salvation comes by Jesus's work, not by our works (8,9)

A. The word *saved* in verse 5 and in verse 8

1. Basic meaning – to be r_____
2. C_____ determines what the rescuing is from
 - a. Matt 8:24-26 – The apostles were asking Jesus to save them from the s_____
 - b. The context of Eph 2:8 is spiritual d_____ (v. 5 we were dead in our trespasses)

B. How did Jesus rescue us from spiritual death?

1. God made us a _____ with Christ who died and rose from the dead (v. 5)
2. It was a g _____ from God (the definition of g _____)

C. Salvation is by grace through f _____

1. Basic meaning – confidence or t _____
2. C _____ determines what our confidence is in.
 - a. Acts 16:30, 31 – the Philippian jailor was told to b _____ (verb form of faith)
 - b. Eph 2:8 – when we place our trust in Jesus as the rescuer from our s _____ we become saved.

D. Salvation is by grace through faith, and THAT (or this) not of yourselves.

1. Gender and the Greek language
 - a. N _____ and adjectives have gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter).
 - b. The gender of the adjective must match the gender of the noun it is describing.

2. The word, THAT, is neuter
 - a. Cannot point to g_____ since it is a feminine noun
 - b. Cannot point to f_____ since it is a feminine noun
 - c. Can only point to the whole process – salvation by grace through faith is not of yourselves
- E. Faith is not possible without God
 1. Jn 6:44 – no one can come to Jesus (in faith) unless the Father d_____ that person
 2. Jn 16:8,9 – the Holy Spirit c_____ unbelievers of their sin.
 3. Phil 1:29 – faith is something that is g_____ (literally, given as a gift).
- F. There is no room for boasting
 1. If you think that you can take any c_____ for your salvation, you have the wrong idea about salvation.
 2. Jesus did all the work. We did none of the work.

Salvation results in good works (10)

- A. Believers are called God's work_____ (NIV – *handiwork*; NLT – *masterpiece*).
 1. The same Greek word is used in Rom 1:20 to describe the creation of God – *what was made*.
 2. At the moment of salvation, God re-c_____ us (2Cor 5:17)
 3. A re-creation takes place at the moment of salvation. He makes us a different person (2 Cor 5:17)
 - a. Some people make the sinner's prayer a loophole claiming it as fire insurance but having no c_____ in their life.
 - b. Some people confuse believing f_____ about Jesus with faith (the d_____ know all the facts about Jesus).
- B. We are recreated for the purpose of doing g_____ works
 1. Paul makes a distinction between works and good works
 - a. Works by itself usually means doing something to gain God's f_____
 - b. Good works refers to doing what God w_____, which is impossible to do without f_____ (Heb 11:6).
 2. The good works we are to do
 - a. Generally – live in o_____ to God
 - b. Specifically – meeting a n_____ of a person

Conclusion: - adjust your life to what you have learned today