

## Saved By Faith - Alone?

March 17, 2019

### Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,  
5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ -- by grace you have been saved --

#### Romans 5:6-9 ESV

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die--  
8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

#### Ezekiel 16:1-43 ESV

1 Again the word of the LORD came to me:  
2 "Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations,  
3 and say, Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.  
4 And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.  
5 No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.  
6 "And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'  
7 I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment.

#### Matthew 5:3-4 ESV

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

### Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

#### Colossians 1:13 ESV

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

#### Hebrews 6:4-5 ESV

4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,  
5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come...

#### Hebrews 12:22-24 ESV

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,  
24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant...

#### Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship (poiēma - a product, thing that is made, workmanship), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- To properly understand verses 8-10, we must understand the two dynamics of salvation taught in the New Testament:
  - **Justification** - the restoration of our relationship with God
  - **Sanctification** - the result of being restored in relationship with God - progressive holiness
- To properly understand verses 8-10, we must understand the strengths and weaknesses of the doctrine (belief system) of Calvinism and the birth of Protestantism (breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church).

*"The first great Reformers like Martin Luther, John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli never summed up their teaching with the tidy set of five phrases we now know as the five solas. The solas developed over time as a way of capturing the essence of what the Reformation was mainly about in its dispute with the Roman Catholic Church.*

*Sola is Latin for 'alone' or 'only.' The five solas are sola gratia (by grace alone), solo Christo (on the basis of Christ alone), sola fide (through the means of faith alone), soli Deo gloria (to the ultimate glory of God alone), sola Scriptura (as taught with the final and decisive authority of Scripture alone)."*

—John Piper, "Does God Really Save Us by Faith Alone?"

- We are not saved (justified) by works, but we are saved (justified) unto, or for, works (sanctified).
- We are justified to be sanctified.
- Our salvation is maintained by faith (in Christ's workmanship) and not maintained by our works of self-effort.

#### Philippians 1:6 ESV

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

#### Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

1 ...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...

*"Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned. Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon. Therefore the effort we make to obey God is not an effort done in our own strength, but in the strength which God supplies." —John Piper*

James 2:14-26 ESV

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder!

20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"--and he was called a friend of God.

24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

- We are not saved by works, but we cannot be saved without works.
- For faith to be saving faith, it must be faith that is alive, energized and active. Otherwise, it is dead faith.
- Faith is not an empty creed, dogma without substance, words without power or doctrine without accountability.
- Faith is the Divine spark of God's Word illuminated by the Holy Spirit, birthing God's life and nature in the heart.

*Romans 10:14-18 ESV*

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

18 But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

*1 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV*

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

*Colossians 1:5-6 ESV*

5 Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing--as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth...

