

Saved by Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9

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.

Paul is known for really hammering a point that he deems important. Our text is a classic example of Paul drilling home the point that we saved by grace.

God's grace is utter generosity, unselfish, spontaneous, recklessly prodigal generosity, which acts wholly out of loving concern for the other's need, even if he is completely unworthy of the love and help thus offered him. (CSB)

Having been saved, is perfect tense, denoting a past action with present consequences. Christ has already done everything necessary for mankind's salvattion. While grace is the cause, faith is the receiving instrument of the gift of salvation. It, too, is a gift from God.

When Paul says *not of your own doing*, he is saying that no human effort can contribute to our salvation. The Greek literally says, "not from you." – "You have not done this of your own strength." In verse one Paul tells them: **And you were dead in the trespasses and sins.** Corpses don't resuscitate themselves! Our rescue, our life, comes as a gift from God. Romans 3:24 supports this: **and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

To emphasize that we contribute nothing, Paul states **it is the gift of God.** Gifts are not something we earn.

Our salvation is *not a result of works*. The only way good works could save us with a perfect and just God is if our whole life were perfect. God cannot accept a 99 percent morally perfect life. He requires 100 percent perfection. This shuts down the Judaizers who told the Gentiles they needed to keep OT laws and not just believe.

Boasting is out because there is absolutely nothing we can bring to the table to help our salvation. It is totally God's doing.

What comfort we can have on a daily basis, is to know that we don't have to do anything to earn salvation! It has all been done for us in Jesus perfect life, suffering, death and resurrection.

Prayer: Lord, help me to abandon my self-confidence and rejoice in Your grace alone. Amen.