

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

02 August 2026

The Grace of Salvation

Text: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." *Eph. 2:8* Full reading: *Eph. 2:8-10*.

It has been said: If there were only a half-dozen words in our vocabulary, "grace" should be one of them.

Grace is the difference between the sinner's plight and the believer's position.

If we are to grow in God's grace, we must understand what has happened to us by his grace.

It is by grace that we are saved.

There is no greater need in a person's life and no greater provision from God.

There are five truths that will help us to understand the grace of salvation.

The source of salvation.

"For by grace are you saved."

This means that God both initiated salvation and completed it.

What is grace?

Grace has been called the unmerited favor of God.

It is that but it is also more than that.

Grace is the desire and power to do God's will.

The grace of God is one of his attributes, all of which are active.

God expresses his love by giving.

He expresses his grace to us by giving us the desire and power to do his will.

In *first Corinthians 15:10* Paul says, "By the grace of God I am what I am."

God's grace works in us to do his will; it is not accomplished by our own volition.

It cannot be accomplished by our will, only God's.

The verse further says that salvation is "not of ourselves," not anything of our doing; and it is "not of works," so that it is not self-achieved.

However, humans have historically tried to save themselves by self-affliction, by human sacrifice, by good works, or by religious ritual.

But God's Word is very clear on this point: It is not of works! It is by grace alone.

The provision of salvation.

Our focus on grace needs to be centered on the one through whom God's grace of salvation comes.

Ephesians 2:6-10 clearly affirms that this is possible through Jesus Christ.

We are quickened together with Christ.

We are allowed to sit in heavenly places together with Jesus Christ.

God's purpose is to show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Finally, we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.

Acts 4:12 says, salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

Acts 16:31 says, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.

Romans 3:24 says, we are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ

Jesus.

This is how God saves us.

Jesus Christ is the Savior by God's grace!

The nature of salvation.

Two important words in *verse 10* describe the nature of salvation.

The first is "workmanship."

The verse says, "We are God's workmanship", establishing the fact that salvation exists because of his work.

"Workmanship" is from the Greek word "poiema", which may be translated "poem".

It also may be translated "art" or "masterpiece."

The believer, then, is God's masterpiece!

Everywhere we look we see the works of God's hands, but God's greatest masterpiece is a new creation in Christ!

The second word is "created," as in "created in Christ Jesus."

It is the word for creation that is used only of God and refers to the creative energy that only he can exert.

Salvation is a divine creation, not an evolution.

It is experienced in a moment of time, as Zacchaeus and Saul of Tarsus experienced it.

"Grace" means to bring something out of nothing.

Only God can create!

Humans cannot create anything, not even an insect or a sunbeam.

Our new nature is of God.

It is not reformed or remade: it is new; the old is gone.

We are new persons in Christ.

This provides for new relationships in life as the new people of God.

This can only be God's gracious doing!

The conditions of salvation.

Verse 8 says, "For by grace are you saved through faith."

It is important to see the network: salvation is by grace through faith.

Faith is the means by which we appropriate salvation.

It is the hand that receives the gift.

It means "to trust" or "to rely on."

John Calvin said, "Faith brings a man empty to God, that he may be filled with the blessings of Christ."

Saving faith has three parts.

Faith is hearing (*Romans 10:17*: it is accepting the truth you hear; and it is committing yourself to it.

It is a sailor trusting the compass and the stars.

It is a patient trusting his or her doctor.

It is a traveler trusting the pilot of a plane.

To be saved, we must trust Jesus Christ to save us!

Faith is the acrostic: Forsaking All I Take Him.

The purpose of salvation.

"We are created unto good works, that we should walk in them."

This is why we are created in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of salvation is twofold:

God purposes good works in our lives.

Good works affirm the reality of salvation, because we prove our faith by our works.

These good works are not human works' they are works God prepared beforehand for us to do.

They are eternal works that relate to his eternal plan.

They are works like those Jesus did.

They are prepared works, as the word ordained means.

We do not manufacture these works; God works in us and through us.

God purposes a new walk for believers "that we should walk in them."

These good works should be our way of life.

This new walk in doing God's good works brings glory to God.

Consider this example: A Christian woman often visited a retirement home near her house.

One day she noticed a lonely man sitting, staring at his dinner tray.

In a kindly manner she asked, "Is something wrong?"

"Is something wrong? Replied the man.

"Yes, something is wrong! I am a Jew, and I can't eat this food!"

"What would you like to have?" she asked.

"I would like a bowl of soup!"

She went home and prepared the soup and after getting permission from the office, took it to the man.

In succeeding weeks she often visited him and bought him the kind of food he enjoyed.

Eventually she led him to faith in Christ.

Even preparing soup can be a spiritual sacrifice, a good work to the glory of God.

It is the grace of salvation continuing to give.

The strength of our salvation and of our continuing in good works lies in the grace of our God.

By his grace our lives have new dimensions.

Grace enables us to sit in heavenly places in Christ's authority.

Grace enables us to walk on earth in Christ like service.

This is what salvation by grace is all about.

As believers we are enjoying the position of one saved by grace.

We can trust Christ and be sure of our salvation.

Thank you Lord for saving my soul.

Thank you Lord for making me whole.

Thank you Lord for giving to me.

Thy great salvation, so rich and free.