

TITLE: SAVED BY GRACE ALONE

TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:8&9

INTRODUCTION: (1) OVER A CENTURY AGO IN THE WORST SLUM DISTRICT OF LONDON, THERE WAS A SOCIAL WORKER WHOSE NAME WAS HENRY MOOREHOUSE.

\* ONE EVENING AS HE WAS WALKING ALONG THE STREET HE SAW A LITTLE GIRL COME OUT OF A BASEMENT STORE CARRYING A PITCHER OF MILK.

\*\* SHE WAS WALKING HOME, BUT WHEN SHE WAS A FEW YARDS FROM MOOREHOUSE SHE SUDDENLY SLIPPED AND FELL AND BROKE THE PITCHER OF MILK AND LOST ALL OF IT.

\*\*\* THE LITTLE GIRL BEGAN TO CRY AS IF HER LITTLE HEART WOULD BREAK. MOOREHOUSE QUICKLY STEPPED UP TO SEE IF SHE WAS HURT.

\*\*\*\* HE THEN HELPED HER TO HER FEET, SAYING,  
**“DON'T CRY LITTLE GIRL.” BUT THERE WAS NO**  
STOPPING HER TEARS.

**(2) IN FACT SHE KEPT REPEATING, “MY**  
**MOMMY'LL WHIP ME; MY MOMMY'LL WHIP ME.”**

**\* MOOREHOUSE SAID, “NO LITTLE GIRL, YOUR**  
**MOTHER WON'T WHIP YOU. I'LL SEE TO THAT.**  
**LOOK, THE PITCHER ISN'T BROKEN IN MANY**  
**PIECES.”**

\*\* AS HE STOOPED DOWN BESIDE HER, HE  
PICKED UP THE PIECES AND TRIED TO PUT IT  
BACK TOGETHER FOR IT WAS MADE OUT OF  
EARTHENWARE, NOT GLASS, AND THE LITTLE  
GIRL STOPPED CRYING.

\*\*\* SHE HAD HOPE FOR SHE CAME FROM A  
FAMILY IN WHICH PITCHERS HAD BEEN MENDED  
BEFORE, SO SHE WAS HOPEFUL THIS STRANGER  
COULD REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

\*\*\*\* BUT AS HE TRIED, IT FELL APART. ONCE MORE, THE LITTLE GIRL BEGAN TO CRY AND **MOOREHOUSE HAD TO REPEAT, "DON'T CRY LITTLE GIRL. I PROMISE YOU THAT YOUR MOTHER WON'T WHIP YOU."**

(3) ONCE AGAIN HE TRIED TO REPAIR THE PITCHER AND PUT IT BACK TOGETHER, BUT HE FAILED AGAIN. THIS TIME THERE WAS NO STOPPING HER TEARS. SHE WOULD NOT EVEN LOOK AT THE BROKEN PIECES ON THE SIDEWALK.

\* FINALLY MOOREHOUSE PICKED THE LITTLE GIRL UP IN HIS ARMS, CARRIED HER DOWN THE STREET TO A SHOP THAT SOLD PITCHERS AND BOUGHT HER A NEW PITCHER.

\*\* THEN, STILL CARRYING HER, HE WENT BACK TO WHERE THE LITTLE GIRL HAD BOUGHT THE MILK AND HAD THE NEW PITCHER FILLED.

\*\*\* HE ASKED HER WHERE SHE LIVED. WHEN HE WAS TOLD, HE CARRIED HER TO THE HOUSE, SAT HER DOWN ON THE STEP AND PLACED THE FULL PITCHER OF MILK IN HER HANDS.

\*\*\*\* THEN HE OPENED THE DOOR FOR HER. AS SHE STEPPED IN, HE ASKED ONE MORE **QUESTION, "NOW DO YOU THINK YOUR MOTHER WILL WHIP YOU?"**

(4) HE WAS REWARDED FOR HIS TROUBLE BY A **BRIGHT SMILE AS SHE SAID TO HIM, "OH, NO SIR, BECAUSE IT'S A LOT BETTER PITCHER THAN WE HAD BEFORE."**

\* NOW THIS STORY IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD IN SALVATION.

\*\* LET ME EXPLAIN, THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT MEN AND WOMEN WERE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.

\*\*\* BUT WHEN OUR FIRST PARENTS, ADAM AND EVE SIN**NED BY DISOBEYING GOD'S COMMAND**, THAT IMAGE WAS BROKEN BEYOND REPAIR.

\*\*\*\* AND WE, LIKE A BROKEN PITCHER, CANNOT FULFILL OUR PURPOSE, OUR PURPOSE OF PLEASING AND GLORIFYING GOD. WE ARE BROKEN VESSELS.

(5) AND SINFUL HUMAN NATURE IN ITS BROKEN STATE IS USELESS IN PLEASING GOD OR EARNING HEAVEN, QUOTE ECCLESIASTES 7:20, ISAIAH 64:6 AND ROMANS 3:10.

\* SO AGAIN WE ARE NOT RIGHTEOUS, WE ARE SINNERS, BROKEN VESSELS.

\*\* YET PEOPLE KEEP TRYING TO PLEASE GOD BY THEIR CHARACTER AND WORKS, LIKE MOOREHOUSE IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPTS TO HELP THE LITTLE GIRL, THEY KEEP TRYING TO PUT THE PIECES OF THEIR BROKEN LIVES, THEIR BROKEN RIGHTEOUSNESS BACK TOGETHER.

\*\*\* YET **THEY CANNOT ACHIEVE GOD'S PERFECT** STANDARDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT THEY SEE PARTS OF THEIR CHARACTER THAT ARE GOOD FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE AND THEY TRY TO WORK WITH THOSE.

\*\*\*\* THE RESULT IS A PATCHWORK OF BROKEN, SMALL PIECES, WHICH GOD CONDEMNS.

(6) BUT HERE IS WHERE THE GRACE OF ALMIGHTY GOD COMES IN. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CAME TO THIS WORLD, WHICH WAS WEEPING IN ITS FAILURE AND SIN, AND HE BECAME THE MEANS BY WHICH AN UTTERLY HOPELESS SITUATION WAS TRANSFORMED.

\* AND THERE IS NOTHING IN THE BIBLE TO INDICATE THAT JESUS EVER ATTEMPTED TO PATCH UP FALLEN HUMAN NATURE.

\*\* HE DID NOT COME TO ASSIST US OR REFORM US, HE CAME TO RECREATE US.

\*\*\* IN FACT, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THE BROKEN PIECES OF OUR FALLEN NATURE, JESUS GIVES THOSE WHO COME TO HIM IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH, A NEW NATURE, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 2:14, II CORINTHIANS 5:17.

\*\*\*\* SO WE THAT ARE IN CHRIST HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW MIND AND A NEW NATURE.

(7) AND TO PARAPHRASE THE WORDS OF THE **LITTLE GIRL, "IT'S A LOT BETTER NATURE THAN WE HAD BEFORE."**

\* FOR IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN THE NATURE OF THE HOLY AND ETERNAL GOD WITHIN HIS PEOPLE.

\*\* AND IT IS ALL OF GRACE. FOR IN THIS STORY THE LITTLE GIRL DID NOT DO ANYTHING TO **DESERVE MOOREHOUSE'S FAVOR.**

\*\*\* SHE DID NOT PAY FOR HER NEW PITCHER AND MILK.

\*\*\*\* **SHE DID NOT HIRE MOOREHOUSE'S**  
SERVICES, SHE HAD NOTHING TO HIRE HIM  
WITH.

(8) SHE DID NOT EVEN PREVAIL UPON HIS  
SYMPATHIES BECAUSE SHE WAS PRETTY OR  
MISERABLE OR HOMELY OR PATHETIC.

\* MOOREHOUSE DID AS HE DID SOLELY BECAUSE  
IT PLEASED HIM TO DO IT. HE DID NOT EXPECT  
**A REWARD FROM THE GIRL'S PARENTS.** IT WAS  
THE KIND INTENTION OF HIS WILL.

\*\* IT WAS AN ACT OF GRACE. AND LIKEWISE  
GOD IN SAVING PEOPLE BY HIS GRACE DOES IT  
BECAUSE HE IS PLEASED TO DO IT.

\*\*\* AND IT IS NOT ANYTHING IN US THAT  
ATTRACTS HIM, BUT AS EPH. 1:5B&6 SAYS: GOD  
DOES WHAT HE DOES IN SAVING SINNERS,  
**"ACCORDING TO THE KIND INTENTION OF HIS  
WILL, TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS  
GRACE, WHICH HE FREELY BESTOWED ON US IN  
THE BELOVED."**



\*\*\*\* AND AS CHARLES SPURGEON WROTE,  
**"BECAUSE GOD IS GRACIOUS, THEREFORE SINFUL**  
MEN ARE FORGIVEN, CONVERTED, PURIFIED AND  
SAVED.

(9) IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF ANYTHING IN THEM,  
OR THAT EVER CAN BE IN THEM, THAT THEY ARE  
SAVED; BUT BECAUSE OF THE BOUNDLESS LOVE,  
GOODNESS, PITY, COMPASSION, MERCY AND  
**GRACE OF GOD." (END QUOTE)**

\* AND BELOVED UNDESERVED GRACE IS A  
PERSONAL ACT. NOT OF US, IT IS SOMETHING  
THAT GOD DOES. GRACE IS A DIVINE ACTIVITY,  
IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF GRACIOUSNESS.

\*\* AND IT IS BY **GOD'S SOVEREIGN** GRACE ALONE  
**THAT WE ARE SAVED FROM GOD'S WRATH.**

\*\*\* AND I TRUST, IN OUR STUDY OF EPHESIANS  
**2:8&9 TODAY THAT "AMAZING" WILL BE**  
CONNECTED WITH THE WORD GRACE AS WE SEE  
**GOD'S WORK IN SAVING US.**

\*\*\*\* FOR GRACE GLORIFIES GOD, WHEREAS WORKS GLORIFY MAN.

(10) AND WE WILL SEE CLEARLY WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE.

**\* AND BECAUSE OF THAT I'VE TITLED OUR MESSAGE TODAY "SAVED BY GRACE ALONE."**

**\*\* AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT TWO THINGS: NO. 1 THE REASON FOR OUR SALVATION - GRACE ALONE, V. 8; AND NO. 2 THE RESULT OF GOD'S WORK OF GRACE, THERE'S NOTHING TO BOAST ABOUT, V. 9.**

\*\*\* AND WITH THAT SHORT OUTLINE IN MIND, **LET'S DIVE IN TO THIS GREAT TEXT WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE REASON. LOOK AT EPHESIANS 2:8 PLEASE.**

I. THE REASON, (READ V. 8)

A. NOW FIRST OF ALL, THE WORD FOR TAKES US BACK TO THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE WHICH COVERS VERSES 1-7 IN THE GREEK TEXT AND SPECIFICALLY TO V. 5 WHICH STATES THE **ACTION OF GOD'S GRACE (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED)**.

\* BUT IT ALSO TAKES US BACK TO V. 7 WHICH COMMUNICATES THE REASON FOR THE **DEMONSTRATION OF THE "RICHES OF HIS GRACE"**.

\*\* SO PAUL HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON THE AMAZINGLY RICH GRACE OF GOD WHICH MADE US ALIVE WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR SINS AND LIVING A LIFE OF REBELLION WHICH WE FORMERLY WALKED IN, B.C., BEFORE CHRIST SAVED US.

\*\*\* SO IT WAS BY GRACE THAT WE HAVE BEEN SAVED, A POSITIVE STATEMENT.

\*\*\*\* AND GRACE IS A WONDERFUL WORD. IT IS THE GREEK WORD KHAR-ECE.

1. AND IT BASICALLY MEANS UNMERITED, UNDESERVED FAVOR. IT IS AN ACTION WHICH ARISES ENTIRELY FROM THE GRACIOUS CHARACTER OF GOD.

\* IT IS THE LOVE AND MERCY OF GOD REACHING OUT TOWARD THE UTTERLY UNDESERVING. IT IS SOMETHING THAT GOD DOES, IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF GRACIOUSNESS, MERCIFUL KINDNESS.

\*\* AND SOME OF US HAVE EXPERIENCED THAT ON THE HUMAN LEVEL WHEN WE WERE UNKIND OR JERKS AND TREATED SOMEONE IMPROPERLY AND THEY RESPONDED WITH KINDNESS, PATIENCE, FORGIVENESS IN THEIR **GRACIOUSNESS. AND WE'RE LIKE BLOWN AWAY** FOR THEY DIDN'T RETALIATE AND GIVE US WHAT WE DESERVE. THEY WERE SO GRACIOUS.

\*\* AND THAT IS ONLY A SMALL IDEA, A SMALL COMPARISON, A FRACTION OF THE TRUTH OF **GOD'S GRACE.**

\*\*\* FOR HIS KINDNESS AND MERCY AND FAVOR AND GRACIOUSNESS TOWARD SINNERS IS HUGE, BIG, BEYOND UNDERSTANDING, INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO SOME DEGREE.

\*\*\*\* FOR IF YOU ARE A TRUE BELIEVER IN CHRIST TODAY, A TRUE CHRISTIAN, A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST, IT IS SOLELY AND ENTIRELY AND ONLY BECAUSE OF THE GRACE OF GOD. IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNDESERVED AND WE DID NOT AND COULD NOT EVER SEEK IT.

2. ROMANS 3:11 AND 3:24 SAYS: (QUOTE THEM).

**\* II TIMOTHY 1:9 SAYS: "WHO HAS SAVED US** AND CALLED US WITH A HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE WHICH WAS

GRANTED US IN CHRIST JESUS FROM WHEN? ALL  
**ETERNITY."**

**\*\* AND BELOVED, GOD'S GRACE IS THE GROUND**  
OF OUR SALVATION, IT IS THE BASIS OF OUR  
SALVATION, IT IS BY GRACE ALONE, PERIOD. OR  
EVEN EXCLAMATION POINT, THAT WE ARE  
SAVED, IF WE ARE SAVED TODAY.

\*\*\* AND THE WORD SAVED HERE HAS TO DO  
WITH BEING RESCUED FROM DANGER,  
DESTRUCTION, INJURY OR PERIL.

\*\*\*\* AND BY THE BASIS, THE GROUND OF GRACE,  
GOD RESCUED SINNERS FROM HIS WRATH,  
FROM HELL, FROM SIN AND FROM THEMSELVES.

3. WE WERE BORN SINNERS, WE LOVED OUR  
SIN, WE FREELY CHOSE OUR SIN AND WERE  
SLAVES OF SIN AND ON THE ROAD TO  
PERISHING, TO ETERNAL DESTRUCTION IN HELL.

\* BUT GOD!

\*\* EPHESIANS 2:4&5 - **"BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED)**.

**\*\*\* SO BY GOD'S GRACE WE HAVE BEEN RESCUED, SAVED, DELIVERED FROM HIS HOLY WRATH IN WHAT HE HATES AS HOLY PURE GOD, SIN.**

\*\*\*\* SO SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE, BUT ALSO NOTICE AS WE MOVE ON, IT IS THROUGH FAITH ALONE.

4. AND THE WORD THROUGH IS A PRIMARY PREPOSITION DENOTING THE CHANNEL OF AN ACT.

\* SO THE MEANS BY WHICH WE ARE BROUGHT INTO A SAVING RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS CHRIST IS FAITH, IT IS APPROPRIATED BY FAITH.

\*\* FAITH IS THE INSTRUMENT, THE CHANNEL, THE MEANS THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE RECEIVE THE SALVATION GOD PROVIDES.

\*\*\* AND SIMPLY PUT FAITH IS TRUST, IT IS RELIANCE, IT IS A CONVICTION OF THE TRUTH, A BELIEF THAT JESUS IS WHO HE SAID HE WAS, THAT HE EXISTS, AND IS THE ONLY SAVIOR, GOD THE SON AND IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US FROM OUR SINS.

\*\*\*\* AND THAT IS THE POSITIVE ELEMENT OF GENUINE SAVING FAITH, NOW THE NEGATIVE ELEMENT IS REPENTANCE, QUOTE ACTS 20:21, LUKE 24:47&48.

5. AND BELOVED IN GENUINE SAVING FAITH THERE IS A TURNING FROM SIN TO CHRIST.

\* IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID THAT REPENTANCE AND FAITH ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN AND THAT COIN IS CALLED CONVERSION.



\*\* REPENTANCE TURNS FROM SIN AND FAITH EMBRACES CHRIST AS THE ONLY HOPE OF SALVATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. THAT IS WHAT CONVERSION MEANS IN SIMPLE TERMS.

\*\*\*\* FAITH AND REPENTANCE CANNOT OCCUR INDEPENDENTLY OF EACH OTHER, FOR GENUINE REPENTANCE IS ALWAYS THE FLIP SIDE OF FAITH; AND TRUE FAITH ACCOMPANIES REPENTANCE.

6. THE TWO CANNOT BE SEPARATED.

\* AND GENUINE REPENTANCE AND FAITH IS A WORK OF GOD THAT INVOLVES THE ENTIRE PERSON, OUR MINDS - THE INTELLECT, OUR EMOTIONS - A HEART RESPONSE, AND OUR WILLS - COMMITMENT.

\*\* LET ME ILLUSTRATE THIS THROUGH MARRIAGE. COURTSHIP BEFORE MARRIAGE MAY **BE COMPARED TO FAITH'S FIRST ELEMENT:** KNOWLEDGE.

\*\*\* IT IS A TIME FOR GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER, FOR SEEING WHETHER THE OTHER PERSON POSSESSES THOSE CHARACTERISTICS THAT WILL BE GOOD IN MARRIAGE.

\*\*\*\* AND KNOWLEDGE IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP, FOR IF THE OTHER PERSON IS NOT OF GOOD CHARACTER OR CANNOT BE TRUSTED, THERE WILL BE A LOT OF TROUBLE LATER ON.

7. NOW THE SECOND ELEMENT IS OUR EMOTION, A HEART RESPONSE. THIS CORRESPONDS TO FALLING IN LOVE, WHICH IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT STEP BEYOND MERE KNOWLEDGE.

\* FINALLY THERE IS THE POINT OF COMMITMENT, A WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO THAT PERSON FOR THIS LIFE, AND IN THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY THAT IS VERBALIZED IN THE FORM OF A VOW.

\*\* AND AT THAT POINT THE COUPLE PROMISES TO LIVE TOGETHER AND LOVE EACH OTHER REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT BE. OH IF PEOPLE COULD ONLY REMEMBER THAT.

\*\*\* AND SO ALSO DO WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CHRIST FOR THIS LIFE AND FOR ETERNITY.

\*\*\*\* AND REAL SAVING FAITH INVOLVES THE WHOLE PERSON, MIND, EMOTIONS AND WILL.

8. THE MIND EMBRACES KNOWLEDGE, THE TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL, A RECOGNITION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUTHS OF CHRIST.

\* THE HEART GIVES ASSENT OR THE SETTLED **CONFIDENCE AND AFFIRMATION THAT CHRIST'S SALVATION IS APPLICABLE TO ONE'S OWN SOUL.**

\*\* AND WE FEEL SORROW FOR OUR SIN.

\*\*\* AND WITH OUR WILL WE RESPOND TURNING FROM SIN TO TRUST CHRIST, THE PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO AND APPROPRIATION OF CHRIST AS THE ONLY HOPE FOR ETERNAL SALVATION.

\*\*\*\* AND **THAT'S WHAT GENUINE SAVING FAITH** IS ALL ABOUT AND IS THE MEANS BY WHICH SALVATION IS APPROPRIATED, THE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH IT IS RECEIVED.

9. SO SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST.

\* AND OUR RESPONSE IN SALVATION IS FAITH, BUT **EVEN THAT FAITH IS "NOT OF OURSELVES" ACCORDING TO THE LAST PART OF V. 8, BUT "IS THE GIFT OF GOD"**.

\*\* AND YES WE MUST BELIEVE, FOR GOD DOES NOT BELIEVE FOR US.

\*\*\* NEVERTHELESS IN OUR PRESENT CONTEXT, THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE FACT THAT BOTH IN **IT'S INITIATION** AND IN ITS CONTINUATION, FAITH IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON GOD, AND SO IS OUR COMPLETE SALVATION.

\*\*\*\* SALVATION IS NOT A COOPERATIVE VENTURE IN WHICH BOTH GOD AND MAN **CONTRIBUTE THEIR PARTS, LIKE GRACE IS GOD'S PART AND FAITH IS OURS** – NO! **IT'S** NOT THAT WAY.

**10. IT IS ENTIRELY GOD'S WORK. PEOPLE** EITHER RECEIVE IT OR REJECT IT. AND FAITH NAMES THE RESPONSE OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT.

\* SALVATION IS THE GIFT OF GOD FROM BEGINNING TO END, FROM PLANNING TO ACCOMPLISHMENT, HE IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH!

\*\* BROTHER AND SISTER, FAITH IS NOTHING WE DO IN OUR OWN POWER OR BY OUR OWN **RESOURCES, "IT IS NOT OF YOURSELVES"**.

\*\*\* AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE POWER OR RESOURCES, WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS.

\*\*\*\* BUT MORE THAN THAT, GOD WOULD NOT WANT US TO RELY ON THEM EVEN IF WE HAD THEM.

11. FOR SALVATION WOULD BE IN PART BY OUR OWN WORKS AND WE WOULD HAVE SOME GROUND TO BOAST IN OURSELVES.

\* AND BELOVED, PAUL INTENDS TO EMPHASIZE THAT EVEN FAITH IS NOT FROM US APART **FROM GOD'S GIVING** IT.

\*\* AND LET ME SAY AT THIS POINT, THERE HAS BEEN AN ONGOING DEBATE ON THE STRUCTURE OF THIS VERSE. THE QUESTION ARISES, WHAT IS THE ANTECEDENT OF THE WORD **THAT, "THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES"**.

\*\*\* DOES THAT REFER TO SALVATION, OR DOES THAT REFER TO FAITH? AND FEMININE AND NEUTER GENDERS ARE BROUGHT UP AT THIS **POINT, "FAITH" BEING IN THE FEMININE GENDER AND "THAT" IN THE NEUTER GENDER.**

\*\*\*\* AND TO SAVE TIME AND NOT TRY TO BE TOO TECHNICAL, LET ME SAY ALTHOUGH GREEK SCHOLARS DISAGREE ABOUT WHICH OF THESE IS THE PREFERRED INTERPRETATION, **DOES "THAT" REFER TO SALVATION OR DOES "THAT" REFER TO FAITH, THEOLOGICALLY IT DOESN'T MATTER.**

12. FOR IN BOTH WAYS OF READING THIS SENTENCE, WE HAVE TO COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT FAITH IS A GIFT OF GOD.

\* IT IS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT, OR OF HUMAN EFFORT OR OF HUMAN ABILITY OR SOMETHING WE CAN CONJURE UP AS WE ARE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SIN.

\*\* FOR WHEN WE RECEIVE THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF, WE ACT BY THE FAITH SUPPLIED, GIVEN **BY GOD'S GRACE.**

\*\*\* THE GIFT IS FREE, IT IS THAT WHICH WE CANNOT EARN OR CONJURE UP, SO THE GIFT IN ITSELF IS OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES AND IS TO BE RECEIVED.

\*\*\*\* THEREFORE, THE GIFT OF SALVATION HAS ITS ORIGIN IN GOD, ITS BASIS IS GRACE AND IT IS RECEIVED BY MEANS OF FAITH.

13. AND THAT IS WHY EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD BE PRAISING GOD DAILY FOR THE FACT THAT HE HAS RECEIVED AS A GIFT NOT ONLY THE SALVATION THAT COMES THROUGH FAITH, BUT THE GIFT OF FAITH ITSELF, II CORINTHIANS 9:15.

\* NOW AS WE GO BACK TO EPHESIANS 2, VERSE 8 CLEARLY GIVES US THE REASON FOR OUR SALVATION, BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH **ALONE, NOT OF OURSELVES, BUT IT IS GOD'S GIFT.**



**\*\* WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 2'D AND LAST POINT TODAY, THE RESULT OF THE REASON, NOT OF WORKS, LEST WE SHOULD BOAST. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE WHICH WE'LL COVER QUICKLY.**

II. THE RESULT, (READ V. 9)

A. NOW THE OBVIOUS RESULT IS THIS, SINCE IT **IS TRUE THAT SALVATION IS ALL BY GOD'S GRACE**, IT IS THEREFORE NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS.

\* HUMAN EFFORT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! ROMANS 4:5, ROMANS 5:1, TITUS 3:5 (QUOTE THEM).

\*\* AND FOLKS, THE ONLY MERIT THAT CAN GET ME INTO HEAVEN IS THE MERIT OF CHRIST, THE ONLY WORK THAT CAN GET ME INTO HEAVEN IS THE WORK OF CHRIST, JOHN 6:28&29 (QUOTE THEM).

\*\*\* AND THIS IS A STUMBLINGBLOCK FOR SOME PEOPLE, FOR MANY ARE TRUSTING IN THEMSELVES AS A HUMANITARIAN, AS A **RELIGIOUS PERSON, AS A QUOTE "GOOD PERSON,"** AS A PHILANTHROPIST, TO WORK THEIR WAY INTO HEAVEN.

\*\*\*\* BUT THE BIBLE IS CLEAR, NONE OF US ARE GOOD ENOUGH, NONE OF US ARE WORTHY, QUOTE ROMANS 3:23 AND ISAIAH 64:6.

1. NOW GET THIS, IF WE COULD JUSTIFY OURSELVES OR EARN OR CONJURE UP ENOUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS ON OUR OWN TO GET US INTO HEAVEN, IT WOULD BE BY OUR WORK, NOT **GOD'S THAT WE ARE SAVED.**

\* AND THE PROBLEM IS WE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO BOAST ABOUT. BUT IT IS CLEAR **HERE, "NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS, THAT NO ONE SHOULD BOAST."**

**\*\* AND THE WORD BOAST LIT. MEANS "TO GLORY". TO GLORY ON ACCOUNT OF OR IN SOMETHING.**

**\*\*\* AND WE HAVE NOTHING TO GLORY IN WHEN IT COMES TO SALVATION, WE CAN ONLY GLORY IN THE CROSS, GALATIANS 6:14 AND ISAIAH 42:8 (QUOTE THEM).**

**\*\*\*\* I CORINTHIANS 1:29-31 - "SO THAT NO MAN MAY BOAST BEFORE GOD."**

**30 - "BUT BY HIS DOING YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME TO US WISDOM FROM GOD, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION"**

**V. 31 - "SO THAT, JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."**

**2. AND THEN ROMANS 11:6 SAYS - "BUT IF IT IS BY GRACE, IT IS NO LONGER ON THE BASIS OF WORKS, OTHERWISE GRACE IS NO LONGER GRACE."**

\* AND FOLKS, SINCE WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE, THERE IS NOTHING TO BOAST IN, FOR IF BY WORKS, GRACE IS NO LONGER GRACE.

IN CONCLUSION: EPHESIANS 2:8&9 SPELL OUT SALVATION IN SUMMARY FORM. ITS SOURCE IS GOD, ITS BASIS IS BY GRACE AND IT IS OBTAINED AS A GIFT BY MEANS OF FAITH.

\* THIS SALVATION IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS INHERENT IN A PERSON NOR CAN IT BE GAINED BY HIS OR HER EFFORT.

\*\* THEREFORE, A PERSON CANNOT BOAST OF ANY SELF-ACHIEVEMENT, BUT MUST BOAST IN THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF GOD.

\*\*\* AND CERTAINLY EPHESIANS 2:8&9 PUTS THE WORD AMAZING IN FRONT OF THE WORD GRACE.

\*\*\*\* AND THESE TWO VERSES BRING ALIVE TO ME THESE WORDS:

(2) AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND,  
THAT SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME. I ONCE WAS  
LOST, BUT NOW AM FOUND, WAS BLIND, BUT  
NOW I SEE.

\* AND HOW ABOUT THE **HYMN, "GRACE GREATER  
THAN ALL OUR SIN"**.

\*\* MARVELOUS GRACE OF OUR LOVING LORD,  
GRACE THAT EXCEEDS OUR SIN AND OUR GUILT!  
**YONDER ON CALVARY'S MOUNT OUTPOURED,**  
THERE WHERE THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB WAS  
SPILT.

\*\*\* **GRACE, GRACE, GOD'S GRACE. GRACE THAT  
WILL PARDON AND CLEANSE WITHIN. GRACE,  
GRACE, GOD'S GRACE. GRACE THAT IS GREATER  
THAN ALL OUR SIN!**

\*\*\*\* CHRISTIAN, MAY WE PRAISE, WORSHIP AND  
ADORE OUR GREAT GOD OF GRACE TODAY. MAY  
WE GIVE OUR ALL TO HIM, NOT CONVENIENCE  
BUT CONVICTION – THESE TRUTHS WILL BUILD  
CONVICTION.

\*\*\*\*\* **AND IF YOU'RE HERE WITHOUT CHRIST,**

(3) I REMIND YOU THAT SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE. AND GOING BACK TO THE STORY I BEGAN THIS MESSAGE TODAY WITH, ABOUT THE LITTLE GIRL IN LONDON, ALL WE CAN DO IS TAKE THE PITCHER GOD PUTS IN OUR HAND, AND THANK HIM, BECAUSE IT IS A LOT BETTER THAN ANYTHING WE EVER HAD BEFORE.

\* WILL YOU DO THAT? IT IS THE WAY A PERSON BECOMES A CHRISTIAN AND THUS PASSES OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE.

\*\* COME THIS WAY TO CHRIST TODAY AS IN THIS HYMN:

\*\*\* NOTHING IN MY HANDS I BRING,  
SIMPLY TO THE CROSS I CLING;  
NAKED, COME TO THEE FOR DRESS,  
HELPLESS, LOOK TO THEE FOR GRACE;  
FOUL, I TO THE FOUNTAIN FLY;  
WASH ME, SAVIOR, OR I DIE.

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME,  
LET ME HIDE MYSELF IN THEE.

\*\*\*\* BELIEVER, ARE YOU THANKFUL TODAY?  
GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR  
FAITH. I CLOSE WITH I CORINTHIANS 15:57 AND  
**PSALM 107:1. (LET'S PRAY)**