

The Apostle Paul: The Grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-10)

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The Apostle Paul, Part 1

Here's a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinner—of whom I am the worst. (1 Tim 1:15)

But for that reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. (1 Tim 1:16)

[And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,] in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:7-10)

Nothing puts on display God's grace more than his activity in saving us.

The Bible doesn't speak about the grace of God in the abstract. It talks about God's grace as it is displayed in Jesus.

When you're trying to get some handle on the grace of God, don't start with yourself. Don't even start with your experience. Start with Jesus.

“For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves. It is the gift of God.” (Eph. 2:8-10)

When the Bible speaks of grace, very simply it means that God doesn't give you what you deserve.

The Greek word translated "you have been saved" is a **perfect passive participle**.

passive = something done to us, not something we did

perfect participle = an activity that was done in the past, but has continuing effects in the present.

By grace you have been saved and are saved and will forever be saved through faith.

Prayer of Surrender

Jesus of Nazareth, I acknowledge before you my thirst for what you have to give. I surrender myself--whole and entire, what was, and is, and is to come--to you. Plunge the wrongs I have done and the wrongs done to me in your fathomless mercy. Receive me as I am today, and make of me what I am meant to be, and let me walk in the path of your new creation.