

"REDEEMED ONLY BY GRACE"

John Tulio

September 20, 2009

God's Plan of Redemption

GOD SAVES SINNERS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE.

Eph. 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. (NRSV)*

Divine Principle: God created man for a love relationship and he relates to God only in response to His love.

Human Strategy for Divine Approval

THE DEITY'S APPROVAL IS OBTAINED BY APPEASEMENT THROUGH HUMAN PERFORMANCE OF SOME MAN-MADE PREREQUISITE.

Humanistic Logic: Man is basically good but his troubles are caused by his gods who are aloof, capricious, vengeful and judgmental, so deity needs to be appeased.

God's Plan v. Human Strategy

God's Plan - deals with the reality of man's true situation: Man is totally helpless and depraved because he is a sinner who is separated from his holy God. Man's knowledge of God needs to change, so he will respond.

Human Strategy - proceeds on the mistaken concept that it is not man who has a problem but it is his god who needs to change his mind about man in order for man's lot to improve.

1 Cor. 1:18, 20 *The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God . . . So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. (NLT)*

WHY ARE SINNERS SAVED BY GRACE ALONE?

1. Sinners cannot save themselves when left to their own device.

Rom. 3:10-12 *As it is written: "There is no one who is righteous, not even one; there is no one who has understanding, there is no one who seeks God. All have turned aside, together they have become worthless; there is no one who shows kindness, there is not even one." (NRSV)*

EVIL MAN ALONE = PERDITION

2. Sinners cannot be saved by satisfying God's law because their sinful nature disables them from true obedience.

Rom. 8:7 *For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. (NLT)*

GOOD WORKS OF MAN ALONE = SALVATION (Pelagius)

Rom. 7:18-19 *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. (NASB)*

Rom. 3:20 *For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. (NLT)*

3. Sinners cannot be saved by both grace and good works because Christ's complete and perfect work cannot be mixed with man's incomplete and imperfect work.

Rom. 11:6 *And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. (NKJV)*

Gal. 2:21 *I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing. (NRSV)*

Rom. 4:4-5 *When people work, their wages are not a gift. Workers earn what they receive. But people are declared righteous because of their faith, not because of their work. (NLT)*

GOD'S FORGIVENESS + MAN'S GOOD WORKS (with God's help) = SALVATION

(Justification)

(Sanctification)

(Grace)

Gal. 2:16 *"Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law." (NLT)*

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. (NASB)*

Gal. 5:4 *For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. (NLT)*

4. Sinners can only be saved by grace because it is the only means by which man will genuinely respond to God's unconditional love.

Eph. 2:4-5 *But God's mercy is great, and he loved us very much. Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, he gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace. (NCV)*

Rom. 3:24 *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (KJV)*

FAITH + GOOD WORKS = JUSTIFICATION (Semi-Pelagian Justification)

FAITH = JUSTIFICATION + GOOD WORKS (Reformation Justification)

(Sola Fide)

Rom. 3:27-28 *Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. (NASB)*

GRACE (Received by Faith) = SALVATION + GOOD WORKS

(Man's Response to God's Love) (Justification) (Sanctification)

Heb. 12:2 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. (NIV)*

WE RECEIVE SALVATION BY BELIEVING IN JESUS.

Rom. 3:25 *We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. (NLT)*

Acts 16:30-31 *He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." (NIV)*

Rom. 10:9-10 *For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. (NLT)*