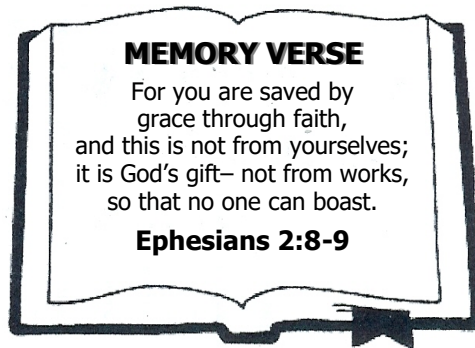


SAVED BY GRACE



We become Christians through "God's unmerited grace." These two words are really not hard to understand. The word "grace" means God's favor. The word "unmerited" means that we don't deserve God's favor at all. Salvation is given to us as a **free gift** from God. We cannot do anything good enough to earn or deserve it ourselves. Because we are **thankful** for God's gift of salvation, we will want to help and serve others to show our gratitude to God for His wonderful gift of grace. But these acts **never** bring salvation; they are only the **result** of receiving it! We call these acts **good works**.

When someone gives you a gift, do you say, "That's very nice---now how much do I owe you?" No. The right thing to say is "Thank you." But the problem is that Christians often feel as though they must **work their way** to win God's approval. Because our salvation and even our faith are **gifts** from God, we should respond with gratitude, praise and joy. Any works we do are out of a grateful heart.

You can get in a car and use a key to try to start it. But the car will never start if you are using the wrong key! In the same way, regular church attendance and many prayers and acts of kindness to others are not the right "keys" to get to heaven. You can be saved from your sins and receive eternal life **only through the grace** of Jesus by telling Him you're sorry for your sins and asking Him to take them away.

SAVED BY GRACE

SOMETHING TO DO

In the word puzzle below, circle all the words in your memory verse (Ephesians 2:8).
There are 18 words in all. The word "is" will be circled two separate times.

A R E Q E G A K S U X Z B D
F H J C L N P R T V S D O G
Z B A N D D F H J L N P F I
R R T I S V X Z A D G J M F
G P S A V E D S V Y B N T
E H I K N Q V T W C F P T
L O R U X A D L G M E P S
V Y B I K N Q T B Y W
S I C F R O M S Z W T P
M J H D U I A X R U Q N
E H I E R B T H R O U G H
T S P M J G D A W T O Q
L H I F C Z K V F S C U O Y

Match the following words with the right definitions.

Place the number of each word in front of the correct definition.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1. Grace | ___ Believing in what you can't see. |
| 2. Saved | ___ God's favor that we don't deserve. |
| 3. Faith | ___ Brought into right relationship with God. |
| 4. Gift | ___ Good deeds we can do to show our thanksgiving to God. |
| 5. Works | ___ Something we receive without paying for. |