

What does "salvation by grace through faith" have to do with baptism?

➤ intro:

- **Eph. 2:1-10** saved by grace through faith, not of yourselves, gift of God

- **false doctrine:** some people pull Eph. 2:8-9 out of context — not have to be baptized to be saved

- **truth re. baptism:** we are saved when we are baptized
 - **Acts 19:4-5** Paul taught the Ephesians that they had to be baptized; therefore baptism necessary to be saved by grace through faith
 - **Acts 22:16** Lord, through Ananias, commanded Paul to be baptized — he had to be baptized to be saved by grace through faith

- **How do we reconcile** the fact that we must be baptized to be saved, and the fact that we are saved by grace through faith?
 - **the Bible doesn't contradict** itself
 - **if a Scripture contradicts our interpretation** of another Scripture, our interpretation cannot be correct
 - **e.g., if some Scriptures tells us** that baptism is necessary, we cannot conclude from Eph. 2:8-9 that baptism is not necessary

- **this lesson:** What does "salvation by grace through faith" have to do with baptism?

➤ **What is “grace” in Eph. 2:8?**

- **Note:** "grace" is used in a number of ways - we only consider its use in Eph. 2:8 in this lesson.

- **Grace:** "the **friendly disposition** (attitude of mind) **from which the kindly act proceeds** (attitude resulting in the act, salvation Eph. 2:8)" (Vine's)

➤ - **cf. mercy:** "is the **outward manifestation** (the outworking of a gracious attitude) of pity" (Vine's)
- **Eph. 2:4** God, rich in mercy (outworking of grace), because of His great love (the motive for God's merciful grace)

- **illus.:**

- #1 Nolan came up to get a \$

- #2 experiment, Thomasville, Dawn (preschool) at home, told her I would give her a dollar if she bent down and picked it up

- she agreed

- I dropped it on the floor

- she bent down and picked it up

- "Did I give you the dollar or did you earn it?" "Gave it to me"

➤ - **God's grace regarding salvation:**

- **Eph. 2:5-6** when dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ, sit in heavenly places

- **God's grace = everything** necessary to make this happen

- **note: we are saved by grace through faith when we are made alive with Christ - raised up with Him**

— !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- **summary:**

- God's attitude (determination) of mind to save us is His **grace**.

- God's enacting and following through of His plan to save us is His **mercy**.

- The motive for God being gracious and merciful toward us is **love** - He loves us (cf. Jn. 3:16).

- We are **saved by grace** through faith **at the moment we are made alive** with Christ.

➤ **What does “through faith” mean (Eph. 2:8-9)?** — saved by grace through faith

- **“through” denotes instrumentality** - the instrument whereby we are saved by grace

- Greek word *dia* — it is through faith that we access God's grace

- **Grace is God's part — faith is our part.**

➤ **“faith” is** the state of believing — fully convinced in God and His word, to the point of obedience

- **Heb. 11:1-2, 6** convinced and convicted, gain approval, without which it's imp. to please God

- **Heb. 11:7** Noah believed and obeyed

- **Heb. 11:8** Abraham believed and obeyed — **etc., all examples of faith this chapter**

- **Heb. 5:9** we believe and obey Jesus / saved

- **saved:** by grace through faith (**Eph. 2:8-9**), obeying Jesus (**Heb. 5:9**)

- **summary: to be saved by grace through faith, we must obey Jesus (Heb. 5:9)**

➤ **When are we saved by grace?**

- We are saved when we obey Jesus (Heb. 5:9)! — **above**

- more specifically, see below

- **We are saved by grace when we are made alive together with Christ - raised up with Him.**

- **Eph. 2:4-5** made alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — **above!!!!!!**

- **A person who has been made alive together with Christ, has been saved by grace.**

➤ - **When are we made alive together with Christ? — when we are baptized**

- **Col. 2:9-13** in Him made complete / buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him / through faith in the working of God / made you alive together with Him / forgiven us all our transgressions

- **Therefore, we are saved by grace when we are baptized.**

- e.g., **Ephesians**, saved by grace when they were baptized

- **Acts 19:4-5** (Paul taught the **Ephesians that they had to be baptized**) they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

- **Eph. 2:4-5** by grace you (**Ephesians / Christians — baptized**) have been saved

➤ - **What is baptism?**

- **"Baptize" is a transliteration** of the Greek word *baptizo*, meaning to dip, to immerse.

- **Baptism is a process** of immersion in water and emergence out of water.

- **Acts 8:38-39a** (review history) had to be water that both men could get into, not just a cup full which they would have had on the chariot

- **both went into the water, both came out of the water — had to be immersed**

- **History:**

- **Immersion (i.e., baptism) was exclusively** practiced until the Third Century when the doctrines of men began to substitute sprinkling and pouring for baptism. (Sprinkling and pouring are not baptism.)

- **Affusion (pouring water) began to be substituted** for baptism in A.D. 251. After that time, sprinkling and pouring were erroneously practiced and called "sick" or "clinical" baptism because it was administered to people who were sick.

- **In A.D. 1331, at the Council of Ravenna**, sprinkling was officially recognized as a substitute for immersion by the Roman Catholic Church.

➤ **Why are we saved by grace, when we are baptized?**

- **Eph. 2:4-7** *in Christ* (vs. 6, 7) — God's grace given to those in Christ (vs. 7)

- if we are in Christ, we are saved by grace
- if we are not in Christ, we are not saved by grace

- We are saved by grace through faith when we are baptized **because we enter into Christ (united with Him) when we are baptized - the exact same time we are made alive together with Christ (rf. above)**

- **Rom. 6:3-5** baptized into Christ (vs. 3), walk in newness of life (cf. *made alive together with Him*) (vs. 4), united with Him (vs. 5)

- **into:** preposition denoting movement and contact

- **before baptized,** not in contact with Christ - no relationship

- **after baptized,** in contact with Christ (in Christ) - have a relationship

- **illus.: walked into the church building**

- **mode of getting into the building was walking** — if not walk, not in the building

- if I tried to **pray** myself into the building, still be sitting in the car

- **mode of getting into Christ in baptism** — if not baptized, not in Christ

- if tried to **pray** myself into Christ, still be in sin

- **Conclusion:**

- **We don't have to understand** all the complex details of salvation which Paul explains to mature Christians in God's word, **but we must obey — baptized, enter into Christ, saved.**

➤ **If we are saved by grace when we are baptized, does that mean we are saved by works?** — no

- **Eph. 2:8-9** we are saved by grace through faith

- **We are saved by grace through faith, which mean that we are saved because be believe and obey God.**

- **illus.: Noah was saved by grace through faith**

- **saved by grace**

- **Gen. 6:8** Noah saved by grace (God's favor)

- **save by faith**

- **Heb. 11:7** Noah, became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith

- **obedience required**

- **Gen. 6:22** Noah obeyed in everything

- **Noah saved by grace through faith, because he obeyed — not saved by works**

- **obedience does not negate God's grace — rather, we must obey to contact His grace**

- **illus.: today, saved by grace through faith**

- **if God tells us:**

- if God tells us to **build an ark** to be saved and we build as ark, we are saved by grace through faith

- if God tells us to **pray** to be saved and we pray, we are saved by grace through faith

- if God tells us to **howl at the moon** to be saved and we howl, we are saved by grace through faith

- if God tells us to be **baptized** and we are baptized, we are saved by grace through faith

- **if God doesn't tell us and we do it:**

- if God doesn't tells us to **build an ark** to be saved and we build as ark, we are lost - tried to work

- if God doesn't tells us to **pray** to be saved and we pray, we are lost - tried to work

- if God doesn't tells us to **howl at the moon** to be saved and we howl, we are lost - tried to work

- if God doesn't tells us to be **baptized** and we are baptized, we are lost - tried to work

- **application:** we are **saved by grace through faith when we do whatever God commands** us to be saved

- **we are saved by grace through faith when we are baptized, because that's what God commands it**

- **Acts 2:38** Repent, each of you be baptized / for the forgiveness of sins

- **Acts 22:16** baptized, wash away sins

- **1 Pet. 3:21** baptism now saves you, appeal to God

- **if we do anything else** (build an ark, pray, howl at the moon) we are lost in sin

- **illus.:** Israel sinned by speaking against God and Moses, God punished them by sending serpents to kill them, God commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole, those who obey and look at it are saved, everyone else is lost (Num. 21)

- those who looked at the serpent (obeyed) were saved — grace (gift) / faith (believe, obey)

- note: would have required much work - travel, take the sick, look

- anyone who tried to do something else (pray, meditate), died

➤ **Conclusion / Inv.**

- **We are saved by grace through faith when we obey Jesus.**

- **Heb. 5:9** Jesus, author of eternal salvation, to all who obey Him

- **Eph. 2:8-9** saved by grace through faith, gift of God, not as a result of works

- **If we try to be saved any other way, we are trying to be saved by works - lost in sin.**

- **Simplified conclusion: Trust and Obey**

- **Inv.** What has Jesus commanded?

- believe, repent, confess Him, baptized, faithful till death

Audio sermon notes: this is an abbreviated outline closely resembling the one I used to present this lesson.

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 4/23/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.