

## Introduction

When we believe on Jesus for our salvation, we are saved by grace. It is given to us in spite of the fact we have done nothing to earn it. When we receive something that is not earned like this, it is called a gift. This gift is freely given to us when we believe on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as the only acceptable payment to God for our sins. This is the basic meaning of what we read in [Ephesians 2:1 - 9](#).

### **Ephesians 2:1–9 (KJV)**

**1** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

**2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

**3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

**4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

**5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

**6** And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

**7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

**8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

**9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

As a teacher of Scripture, it is my duty to present the word of God to you in a way that can be remembered, meditated on, thought about and applied in our lives, so that we may come even closer in our relationship with Jesus. We hear His word and our faith in Him grows as a result. I am called to teach and to rightly divide the word of truth. I no longer want to suffer shame, so I do just what God has commanded me to do. I tell others about Jesus and the gift of salvation He alone has provided us, and if they believe, I see to it they are baptized, linked up with a bible believing church, and see to it they are taught to go out and do the same for others. This is the job for all of us. The

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Lord has been gracious with me and equipped me to teach from His word, that the believer's faith in Him may grow.

### Grace Has A Cost

Just as God has told us in His word, we are in a time when the falling away spoken of by Paul to those in Thessalonica (2 Thessalonians 2:3) is not far away. More and more people seem to not hear about salvation, thinking themselves free from the effects of sin, or not even believing in God at all. Of those who claim to believe in God, many do not believe Jesus is God, or that God would send people to hell and the eternal lake of fire for not believing on Jesus. Many do not believe there is a hell and have not heard of an eternal lake of fire. Still there are many who claim to be believers on Jesus who go to churches that are only there to make them feel good about themselves; to only provide a positive message that they are good as gold and need not worry about a thing; not even the souls of others. Fewer and fewer people in the world believe in the God of the bible, but do believe in a "god" of their own design. Billions of people alive today will be joining the devil and his angels in the eternal lake of fire after the final judgment.

I say all this to put things in their proper perspective, so that we can learn from what we read in Ephesians.

As [Ephesians 2:1](#) states, we were dead in trespasses and sins, but have been brought back to life, eternal life, by God the Father through His only begotten Son Jesus. I bring back to memory what Paul wrote in verses 4 and 5.

#### **Ephesians 2:4-5 (KJV)**

**4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

**5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

We could spend time speaking of the richness of God's mercy, or the greatness of the love God has provided to us, but we spend much time on these matters already. We can hear these messages from preachers who are reaching out to us for our salvation, and many times for our wallets. They will not spend much time on sin as many of the old time preachers did, but will spend a majority of their time speaking of all the positive things, if you will, concerning God. But we serve a balanced God, a merciful and just God, a God who does indeed provide grace, but will also provide the punishment for

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those who do not believe. So, because this message is about grace and cost, I remind the believers here of the following.

### **1 Corinthians 6:20 (KJV)**

**20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

### **1 Corinthians 7:23 (KJV)**

**23** Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

And lest we forget,

### **1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (KJV)**

**19** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

**20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

There is a theme in these verses we just heard. You are bought with a price! We are saved by grace, but that grace is not free. When we have a birthday and receive gifts from others, we do not pay for the gift. The gift is freely given to us. The gift, however, is paid for by the one giving the gift. Even if it is something that is made with their own hands, there is a price of time spent and materials used that go into the preparation of that gift. The gift itself is not free, but it is freely given. This is what we should remember about the free gift of salvation we receive. We do not pay for the gift, we have not earned the gift, but we freely receive the gift. It is given to us in spite of the fact we did not pay for it and did not earn it. That is grace.

Our works only earn us death, according to Scripture.

### **Romans 6:23 (KJV)**

**23** For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The wages of sin is death. Our wages before salvation is death. Death is the only thing we earned before believing on Jesus. Remember what we read in Ephesians 2:1?

### **Ephesians 2:1 (KJV)**

**1** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

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If you believe, like billions of Catholics in the world and billions of Buddhists and others believe, that good works are what is needed to get to heaven, you will find out, too late, the error of your own understanding. This is why we do not lean unto our own understanding, or believe what some priest or guru tells us about their understanding, but look to God's word for our understanding. God's word will tell you that when you read [Proverbs 3:5](#)

### **Proverbs 3:5 (KJV)**

**5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

This is what Paul commended the Bereans for in [Acts 17:11](#)

### **Acts 17:11 (KJV)**

**11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

There is a price associated with grace. Grace is freely given to us, but grace itself carries a cost beyond measure. The cost of grace is infinite and anything we do to alter the word of God, especially in relation to the gospel, cheapens grace.

The Universalists would have you believe that Jesus provides salvation for all whether they believe on Him or not. They have cheapened grace. There are those who believe salvation is provided at baptism, so they make it necessary to baptize infants. These groups all cheapen grace. There are those who believe there a million ways to get to heaven. They have all cheapened grace. The infinite price of grace only provides salvation when we believe our sins are paid for when we believe on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. God does not necessarily make things easier for us, but He does make them perfectly clear. Man's idea of easy creates confusion, especially when used in reference to salvation; but one way to salvation makes it perfectly clear how we are saved. We believe on Jesus and we are freely given the gift of eternal life with Jesus. We are saved from death and we are saved from eternal damnation in the eternal lake of fire.

Time has been spent on speaking about a price that is involved with grace. That cost is infinitely high. I have a poster at work on my cubicle wall that says, "Jesus paid a debt he didn't owe, because we had a debt we couldn't pay." This begins to give us a glimpse into the cost of grace.

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All throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites were required to offer the blood of bullocks, or steers, lambs, and goats to cover sin and the effects of sin. As [Hebrews 9:22](#) states,

### [Hebrews 9:22 \(KJV\)](#)

**22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

This means in order for our sins to be paid for according to the word of God, there had to be the shedding of blood. If there was no shedding of blood, there would be no remission, or forgiveness, of sin. Now the blood of animals only provided a one-time forgiveness of sin for what the sacrifice was being offered for. The blood of the animal was not pure and could not pay continuously for the sins of the Israelites. In order for the sacrifice to be good once and for all, God himself would have to shed His blood and die for our sins. He did this through His only begotten Son Jesus. Jesus is the word; He is God. John chapter 1 makes this perfectly clear.

### [John 1:1–4 \(KJV\)](#)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**2** The same was in the beginning with God.

**3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**4** In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

### [John 1:14 \(KJV\)](#)

**14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Because Jesus is God, His blood was pure; it was free of any sin. His blood would provide remission of our sins and was the only acceptable payment for our sin.

No longer would the priest be required to offer sacrifices for himself first and then for others, because Jesus had paid the final price of sin. His blood had to be shed for remission, or forgiveness, of the sins and he had to die because the wages of sin is death.

Jesus had to not only pay the price of sin for us through his blood and death, but had to suffer all the agony associated with it. While he hung on that cross at Calvary, he suffered the physical pain of death on a cross. While suffering physically on the cross, he also suffered emotionally. His disciples had left him; he heard the mocking of those

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around him to come down off the cross and save himself, if he were God. He couldn't come down off the cross because he had to die on the cross in order for the wages of our sins to be paid for. While he suffered physically and emotionally, he suffered spiritually. God the Father, who was pleased to have this happen to His only begotten Son, ([Isaiah 53:10](#)) turned away from Jesus during this time. All the sins of the world were poured out onto Jesus and God the Father cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and Jesus had all the sins that had been committed, were being committed and would be committed poured out on him. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Then Jesus cried out again and yielded up the ghost; that is he died.

The price of that grace that provides us our salvation when we believe on Jesus for our salvation came at an infinitely high price. We are saved by grace, but we are bought with a price. How can we ever ask for things like material wealth after we have received grace that is so costly? How can we as Christians who have accepted that free gift of salvation put up with the greed, lust, lies, envy ... sin of those who are call themselves pastors? We must remember that grace is freely given, but it was a costly gift that we have received; a gift we did not deserve; a gift we could not purchase ourselves; a gift that could only be given by God.