

Saved by Grace . . . Now What?

Sermon Text Outline

- Introduction and Focus Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10
 - Focus Scripture: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - My previous message “Remember Me: The Theology of a Thief,” focused on one of the thieves crucified next to Jesus receiving the grace of forgiveness.
 - In this message, I intend to answer the question of how we should live once we receive grace.
 - We will find out just how interconnected and inseparable faith and good works are.
 - The question is once we’re saved, what then?
 - Matthew 5:14
 - Just to be clear, you are saved by grace through faith alone, not works.
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - So why do good works?
 - We are created by God in Christ for good works.
 - We do good works out of grateful heart to glorify God.
 - Good works authenticate our faith.
- We are created by God in Christ for good works.
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - We were made for specific tasks that God already had on His mind for us to do to advance His Kingdom once we accepted Christ.
 - Our Savior sets the example.
 - Mark 10:43-45
 - Philippians 2:3-8
 - You are never more like Jesus than when you humble yourself to serve another.
- We do good works out of a grateful heart to glorify God.
 - Ephesians 2:4
 - Matthew 5:16

- He loves us so much and gave up so much to prove that love, how can we not want to show him that love by doing good in His name?
 - Good works authenticate our faith.
 - “Put your money where your mouth is.”
 - James 1:22-25
 - Do you want to be blessed? Be a “doer of the work!”
 - Luke 6:44
 - You can have all the nicest woodworking tools at your fingertips, but if you never put them to use, can you really be called a carpenter?
 - You can read the Bible all you want, but if you don’t put what’s written in it to practice, what does that say about your faith?
 - What your life produces is the best indicator of the type of faith you have.
 - James 2:20-24
 - Abraham really did walk the walk!
 - Good works can't save you, but faith without works is dead!
 - 1 John 4:20 – I the love of God in you?
- How are good works manifested?
 - In fellowship as part of the body of Christ (the Church).
 - In sharing the Gospel and discipleship
 - In impacting the culture
- In fellowship as part of the body of Christ (the Church).
 - The first place your faith should show up is in your local body of believers. We are all “put together” for the purpose of growing Christ’s Kingdom.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12,14,18-19, 27-30
 - If you are willingly keeping yourself away from fellowship, how can you consider yourself “part of the body?”
 - You have been given unique gifts and play a valuable role in the life of the Church.
 - Matthew 25:14-30
 - Don’t deprive God of your best (the tithe of your time and talents) and the “body” of your part in it.
 - God expects you to use what He has given you to advance His Kingdom. See a need, fill a need!

- Hebrews 10:24-25
 - No, you don't have to be in a church to be a Christian, but that's like being a football player without a team.
 - The enemy loves it when we go it alone.
 - We NEED each other, especially in the days ahead.
- In sharing the Gospel and discipleship
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - We have one mandate from Jesus, to spread the Good News!
 - You are equipped to do this! 2 Timothy 3:16-17 & Psalm 119:105
 - It's simple: use your testimony and point them to the God of the Bible!
 - J. Vernon McGee – “Every Bible should be bound in shoe leather.”
- In impacting the culture
 - We are living in a unique time, and not by accident.
 - 2 Timothy 3:1,13
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 - You have a ministry and were created for this point in time!
 - Don't be that person that waits for God to do something.
 - Outside of creation and salvation, God has always partnered with His people.
 - Isaiah 6:8
 - Do something for someone and expect nothing in return, be involved, inject God's righteousness into the culture!
 - Fight for those that can't (i.e., the unborn).
 - Speak the Truth in love wherever and whenever you can!
 - James 1:27
 - 1 John 3:16-18
 - Don't offer up lip service only, but actual service.
 - “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” (This quote is commonly attributed to Sir Edmund Burke).
- Conclusion
 - If you don't know Jesus as your personal Savior, do it today!
 - Romans 10:9-10
 - Grace says that there's nothing you can do to make God love you more, and there's nothing you can do to make God love you less.
 - If you are saved, don't let complacency turn into a falling away!

- Revelation 3:14-19 - “I will vomit you out of My mouth”.
- Vomit – Strongs no. 1692 from the Greek word eméō (em-eh’-o) which means to be repulsed, showing utter rejection (desiring total separation); to reject with extreme disgust.
- You are all in or not in at all! To be complacent, or lukewarm, is to risk incurring God's wrath.
 - Mark 8:34-35
- Luke 12:16-21
 - When you hold something of yourself back, when you don't give God your all, you are literally robbing God!
 - You also leave room for the enemy to sneak in and plant seeds of complacency. Webster's dictionary defines complacency as, “*self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.*” Once sprouted, complacency can turn into apathy, which is a *lack of interest or concern (indifference)*, and that will eventually lead to disdain, “*a feeling of contempt (scorn) for someone or something regarded as unworthy or inferior.*”
 - It's the digression of the sinful lifestyle diagrammed in Psalm 1:1.
- You are pursuing first the Kingdom of God, or you are NOT pursuing the Kingdom of God at all!
- Warning: When doing good works, make sure your motives are pure!
 - Philippians 2:3
 - 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
 - Service done out of selfish intentions, instead of for the good of others, will be shown lacking.
- If you are in the thick of it, don't give up!
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:13
 - Galatians 6:9
 - Keep striving, and the day will come when you hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”
- Time is short!
 - Jesus did say to pay attention to the signs of the times.
 - Your time is short because you don't know how much of it you have!
 - Get saved, then get busy! Don't get puked out!