

March 15, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Eph. 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. (NIV)*

Let me ask you a question today: how hard did you have to work to obtain salvation? I know you know the answer to this, and yet so many people are bound to this religious philosophy of trying to work their way into God's grace. Let me just set the record straight. You cannot be good enough to get to heaven on your own because 'good enough' won't cut it. It takes perfection. It takes never sinning. It takes being like Jesus and we have all failed on that account. Why? Because God is holy, holy, holy and no one can enter into His presence without being cleansed, made right and made perfect through the blood of the Lamb.

So what does it take you might ask? It takes grace. I've said this before, but grace is **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense. Without the grace of God, we'd have no place with God. It is something that we did not deserve and we could never earn. It comes only by faith in the atoning work of Jesus upon the cross. He paid for our sins when we could not. He took our shame and blame for us. He caused the sun to stop shining and the world to become dark because the light of the world had been soiled with the sins of the world. **1 John 2:2** *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (NIV)* It is this and only this that brings salvation, freedom, real and abundant life.

If anyone could obtain salvation by their own works, then Jesus did not need to sacrifice Himself for our sin; but He did because we could not.

Dear LORD, we could never earn our way into Your presence. It is only by the precious blood of Lamb. What could wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What could make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh precious is the flow, that makes us white as snow. No other fount we know. Nothing but the blood of Jesus. In Jesus Name, Amen