

January 20, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

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

As Paul addresses the church at Ephesus, he again uses that wonderful word, grace. As a reminder, he cautions them to recall that they had nothing to do with the acquiring of their salvation. It was bought totally by the sinless blood of Jesus. This gift was given to every underserving person (which is all people), and does not come from ourselves. As an example, you might pick up a glass of water to drink. The water is what brings the satisfaction for the thirst we have, and certainly the water is the important part, but it is given through the capacity of the glass. The glass doesn't quench your thirst; the water does. But the glass carries the water to the place where you can benefit from it. And so by grace we have been saved, ***through*** faith.

Now again remember that this grace is not earned, nor can it be. It is a gift of God. As we went through the Christmas season, you may have worried over whether a particular gift was going to be right for a certain person in your life. You may have hoped that they would be totally blessed by the giving of it. The most perfect gift ever given is this gift of grace that we received from the perfect gift-giver; the LORD Himself. He gave the very best gift so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life with Him. But each person could look at a gift continually and never open it. This is the step of faith that each person must take. But in taking this step of receiving the gift, we can then enjoy the gift itself. What has anyone done to deserve the grace of God? Absolutely nothing! Jesus did everything for you and me! He paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Dear LORD, thank You for the gift of salvation. Thank You that You would do such an amazing thing for us. You are the greatest gift ever given. In Jesus Name, Amen