

# THE GIFT OF GOD

---

- **SALVATION IS:**
  - BY GRACE ALONE
  - THROUGH FAITH ALONE
  - IN CHRIST ALONE
  
- **SALVATION IS NOT:**
  - BY WORKS (GOOD DEEDS)
  - BY OBSERVANCE OF ANY MAN-MADE:
    - TRADITIONS
    - RITUALS
    - LAWS
    - RELIGIOUS RULES
  - THROUGH FAMILY LINEAGE

**IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD, TO BE FREELY RECEIVED!**

**NOTE:** See separate study entitled "[God's Salvation Plan.](#)"

## **By grace**

- Eph 2:8a For it is by grace you have been saved, ...
- 1Co 1:4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.
- 1Co 15:10a But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.
- Tit 3:7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
- Rom 5:15-17 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup>Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:20-21 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, <sup>21</sup>so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.
- (Rom 6:1-3 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?)
- (Rom 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!)
- Rom 11:6 And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

## Through faith

- Eph 2:8b (For it is by grace you have been saved,) through faith ...
- Gal 3:6 Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."
- Gal 3:8-9 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." <sup>9</sup>So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
- Gal 3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.
- Heb 11:1-2 (see the entire chapter) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. <sup>2</sup>This is what the ancients were commended for.
- Heb 4:2-3a For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. <sup>3</sup>Now we who have believed enter that rest,
- Rom 5:1-2a Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.
- Lk 7:50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."
- Lk 17:19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."
- Lk 18:42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."
- Mt 9:22a Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."
- Mt 9:28-29 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. <sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you";
- Mk 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
- Lk 1:45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"
- Jn 4:50 Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed.
- Act 3:16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.
- Act 14:8-10 In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup>He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup>and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.
- Act 26:17b-18 I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
- Rom 3:26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.
- Rom 3:30 since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.
- Rom 4:16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring-not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

## In Christ

- Gal 3:26-27 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- Eph 1:7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.
- Col 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- Act 17:28a 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'

## Not by works

- Jn 6:28-29 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."
- Eph 2:9 (yet v. 10) (v.8) <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. (<sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.)
- 2Co 10:17-18 But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." <sup>18</sup>For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.
- Rom 4:2-6 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about-but not before God. <sup>3</sup>What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup>However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. <sup>6</sup>David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:
- 1Co 1:26-31 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-and the things that are not-to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."
- Tit 3:5a He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.
- Lk 1:77-78a to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God,
- 2Ti 1:9b not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.
- Rom 9:30-32a What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; <sup>31</sup>but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. <sup>32</sup>Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works.
- Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?
- (Rev 20:12, 15) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ... <sup>15</sup>If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.)

## **Not by the Law**

- Jn 5:39a You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life.
- Jn 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- Jn 7:19a Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law.
- Act 7:52-53 Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him- <sup>53</sup>you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."
- Gal 2:15-16 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' <sup>16</sup>know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.
- (Jn 7:47-49 "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. <sup>48</sup>"Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup>No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law-there is a curse on them.")
- Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"
- (Dt 6:25 And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.")
- Gal 3:22 But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.
- Heb 7:11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come-one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?
- Heb 7:18-19 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless <sup>19</sup>(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.
- Gal 3:11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."
- Rom 3:20-21 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.
- Rom 3:27-28 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

- Rom 4:9-14 Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. <sup>10</sup>Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! <sup>11</sup>And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. <sup>12</sup>And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. <sup>13</sup>It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup>For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless,
- (Act 15:5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.")
- (Act 15:10-11 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup>No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.")
- Mt 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Act 13:38-39 "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup>Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.
- Rom 8:3a For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son
- Rom 7:4-6 So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. <sup>5</sup>For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. <sup>6</sup>But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.
- (Rom 5:13a for before the law was given, sin was in the world.)

## **Not through tradition or religious ritual**

- Mk 7:6-9, 13 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>7</sup>They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' <sup>8</sup>You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." <sup>9</sup>And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ... <sup>13</sup>Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."
- Heb 10:1-4 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. <sup>2</sup>If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. <sup>3</sup>But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, <sup>4</sup>because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
- Heb 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
- 1Sa 15:22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
- Hos 6:6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.
- Pr 21:3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
- Pr 21:27 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable--how much more so when brought with evil intent!
- Jer 7:22-23 For when I brought your forefathers out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, <sup>23</sup>but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you.
- Mt 9:13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
- Jn 9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.
- (Jn 9:22b for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.)
- (Jn 9:28-34 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup>We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. <sup>32</sup>Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.)

- (Act 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.")
- Rom 2:25-29 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. <sup>26</sup>If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? <sup>27</sup>The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. <sup>28</sup>A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. <sup>29</sup>No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.
- Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.
- Gal 6:15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.
- (1Co 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel-not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.)

### **Not through family line**

- Mt 3:9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
- Jn 8:33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"
- Jn 8:37 I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.
- Jn 8:39 "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did.
- Jn 8:53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"
- Rom 4:11b-12 So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. <sup>12</sup>And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.
- Rom 9:6b-8 For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. <sup>7</sup>Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." <sup>8</sup>In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.
- Gal 3:6-7 Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>7</sup>Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.
- Gal 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

## **A gift**

- Job 17:3 "Give me, O God, the pledge you demand. Who else will put up security for me?  
Eph 2:8c (For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith)-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-
- Rom 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.  
Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Act 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 1Co 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.
- 2Co 9:15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

## **The purpose and function of the law**

- Gal 3:15-25 Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. <sup>16</sup>The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. <sup>17</sup>What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. <sup>18</sup>For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. <sup>19</sup>What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. <sup>20</sup>A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one. <sup>21</sup>Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. <sup>22</sup>But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. <sup>23</sup>Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.
- Rom 7:7-13 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." <sup>8</sup>But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. <sup>9</sup>Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. <sup>10</sup>I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. <sup>11</sup>For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. <sup>12</sup>So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. <sup>13</sup>Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.
- 1Ti 1:8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.