



## Lesson Five: An Introduction To Salvation

We are continuing our first G, the Gather. Gather is an introduction. In our last lesson we were introduced to Jesus, God's Son. We learned that He was fully God and fully man. It was necessary that He were both if He was going to pay the price for our sin. We looked briefly at His death, burial, and resurrection. It was through this work that Jesus paid the price for our sin and made everlasting life possible. In this lesson we will take a closer investigation of what this means for us.

### Near Death

Have you ever almost died? If you did, how did it happen? \_\_\_\_\_

I almost died in a car wreck when I was a teenager. I was on a two-lane road heading down a hill, when I decided to pass a car that was going too slow for my taste. When I pulled up beside the car, he stepped on the gas and so did I. It was at that moment that I noticed a car coming towards me. I cranked the steering wheel and pulled onto a gravel driveway, spinning around and coming to a stop. I narrowly avoided a head on collision at high speed. There is something about almost dying that makes us think about the end of our lives, and what comes next.

### Grace

Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:8-9 how we can be sure about where we will end up when we take our last breath in this life, "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." Grace is the good things that God gives to us that we absolutely do not deserve. A couple of lessons ago, we learned that we are all sinners. Remember what Paul told the Romans in Romans 3:23? He wrote, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Have you ever sinned by breaking God's rules? \_\_\_\_\_ If you have, what is one sin that you know that you have committed? \_\_\_\_\_ Because we have sinned, we deserve a punishment. But God loves you and offers you a gift of grace.

### Saved

We have looked at the grace in Ephesians 2:8. The verse continues, "For by grace are ye saved...". The salvation that we are speaking of is not talking about being saved from physical death. I recently talked with a man about his relationship with Jesus. And in the discussion, he kept going back to times where his physical life was spared from a car wreck and other things. That is not what we are talking about. We are referencing being saved from spiritual death. Salvation is a pardon from spiritual death. Being rescued from eternal condemnation. Paul wrote in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death...". We noted in our lesson on sin that the death here is eternal spiritual death.

The whole reason that Jesus came in the first place was to make salvation possible. Jesus said in John 3:16-18, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not

perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Notice what is written in verse 16, "that whosoever believeth in Him should not \_\_\_\_\_..." God does not want you to face eternal death. That's why Jesus said in John 3:17, "that the world through Him might be \_\_\_\_\_." We deserved to pay for our own sins, but Jesus chose to pay for them Himself, that is what makes this salvation all of grace.

## Faith

Ephesians 2:8 goes on to say, "For by grace are ye saved through faith;..." You have to believe. Let's go back to Jesus words in John 3:18, "He that \_\_\_\_\_ on him is not condemned: but he that \_\_\_\_\_ not is condemned already, because he hath not \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the only begotten Son of God." It's not about praying a prayer, being a part of a church, or doing good things. The way that we access this salvation is through faith. But it is important to have faith in the proper thing.

Paul made it clear what we are to have faith in when he wrote Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." What is it that you have to believe in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

Notice the belief has to do with the work that Jesus did to pay the price for our sin and make everlasting life possible. The belief is in what He did, not in what you or I did or must do.

## Gift

Ephesians 2:8-9 ends by focusing on the gift that God wants to give to us, "and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Salvation is not something that we can earn. We cannot work to obtain it, because we can never be good enough. We looked at the beginning of Romans 6:23 already, not let's take a look at the second half of the verse, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We earn death by our own work, but eternal life is a gift from God that is made possible through \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm a fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes. Recently, I was offered a ticket to the Iowa/Michigan game in the Big House in Ann Arbor, Michigan. My wife's cousin lives just outside of Ann Arbor and offered us a free place to stay and entrance into the football game for my birthday. Now when I was offered the gift, I had a choice to make. I could refuse the gift, or I could accept it. I definitely chose to accept it! I had a great time at the game, even though Iowa lost. But we won't talk about that part of it.

When it comes to God's free gift of salvation, we have a choice to make just like I had a choice to make about the football tickets. You have to choose to either accept God's gift, or you have to choose to reject it. What is the choice that you have made?

## Conclusion

Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin? Have you accepted His gift of salvation through Jesus? God is offering this gift to you right now! Paul told the believers in Rome Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Won't you trust in Him today?