

Are We Saved Alone by Grace Through Faith?

I. Introduction: Recently, a fellow named James Thompson wrote me saying:

“The message of the Bible from Genesis (15:6) to Revelation (22:17) is that salvation is a free gift of God's grace, accepted through faith alone... Any gospel that includes our works, whether baptism, communion, feeding the hungry, or anything else, is a false gospel.”

A. To deny that we are saved by grace through faith is to deny the truth (**Acts 15:11, Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Titus 3:4-7**).

1. The arrogant claim that you can get to Heaven by works alone is false (**II Timothy 1:9**).

2. In fact, we could not be saved without Christ dying for us (**Romans 5:9, Ephesians 2:11-13, Hebrews 9:22-28, and Revelation 1:5**).

B. However, saying we are saved by grace through faith alone, is saying something that the inspired scriptures differs with (**Hebrews 13:20-21**)?

1. Consider reading **Ephesians 2:8-10** (instead of stopping at verse 9) or **Titus 3:4-8** (instead of stopping at verse 7).

2. Don't we receive faith from a work (**Romans 10:17**)?

3. Fact is, God demands that we count on more than just grace and faith (**Romans 6:1-2 and James 2:14-26**).

II. Body: The fact that we can do nothing to deserve God's grace through Christ, does not mean that there is nothing we have to do to acquire this grace (**Genesis 6:8; cf. Hebrews 11:7**)!

A. If salvation were by grace through faith alone, most of the scriptures would be useless (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).

1. The scriptures would be useless because they teach more than salvation through grace and faith alone (**Mark 13:13, Mark 16:15-16, John 5:34, John 10:9, Acts 2:21, Acts 2:47, Acts 4:10-12, Romans 1:16, Romans 8:24, Romans 10:10, I Corinthians 1:18, I Corinthians 5:4-5, I Corinthians 15:1-2, II Corinthians 7:10, and I Peter 3:20-21**).

2. The scriptures would be useless because they teach us how to live, not just believe (**Psalms 119:105, Romans 12:1-2, Titus 2:11-14, and II Peter 1:1-4**).

B. God demands obedience and rewards / punishes accordingly (**II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

1. If we do not obey, we cannot please the Lord (**Romans 2:5-11 and II John 9**).

2. Heaven is the reward (**Revelation 2:10 and Revelation 22:14**).

C. The very fact that a Christian can fall away denies the false doctrine of grace through faith alone (**I Corinthians 10:12 and Galatians 1:6-7; 3:1; 5:4-9**).

1. Consider the punishment of falling (**Hebrews 10:26-31 and Revelation 2:5**).

2. We need to be aware, through knowledge, that we can fall (**II Peter 3:16-18**).

III. Conclusion:

A. Through Christ we learn obedience and through inspiration we learn that we do have a role in our salvation (**Philippians 2:5-12**).

B. Grace by faith alone, really (**Hebrews 5:8-9 and I Peter 4:17-18**)?