

**Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1**  
**“Salvation Is By ‘Grace Alone’!”**  
**Lesson 16**

**INTRO:**

- A. You may have heard such statements as:
1. “A person is saved by grace and grace alone.”
  2. “Grace and nothing else.”
  3. “I have absolutely nothing to do with my salvation!”
  4. “There is nothing you can do to be saved!”
- B. “By grace alone, in faith in Christ’s saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping us and calling us to good works.” (Nov. 1999, the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church issued the “**Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification**”)
- C. “This effectual call is of God’s free and special grace along,...the creature being wholly passive therein, being dead in sins and trespasses; until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call and to embrace the grace offered...” (**The Hiscox Guide For Baptist Churches**, p.170)

**I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE?**

- A. We **ARE** Saved By Grace!
- Ephesians 2:8** “*For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*”
- Jesus reconciled Jew and Gentile to God in one body through the cross. Therefore, we are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.
- Titus 2:11** “*For **the grace of God that brings salvation** has appeared to all men,*”
1. Where is the book, chapter, and verse which states, or even implies, we are saved by grace alone?
  2. “GRACE” - ‘undeserved favor’. God provided salvation for us through the sacrifice of His Son. Salvation which we do not deserve!
- B. Salvation Is God’s Desire For All Men! **1 Tim. 2:4,6** “*who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,*”
1. The provision of salvation is solely by God’s grace. **Eph. 2:8-9** “*For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*”
  2. The just penalty for sin is death. **Gen. 2:17** “*but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*”;  
**Rom. 6:23** “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

## Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 2

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3. Therefore, justice demands death for all who have sinned!
  4. All men have sinned. **Rom. 3:23** “*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*”
  5. God so loved us that He gave His only Son to die in our place.  
**John 3:16** “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*”  
**Rom. 5:8** “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”
- C. However, our salvation is not ‘one sided’, i.e. God does it all and man is ‘wholly passive’!
- Ephesians 2:8** “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*”
1. “Grace” - God’s part.
  2. “Faith” - Man’s part.
- D. In Acts 2, the question was asked by those who crucified Christ, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*” (v. 37)
1. They were obviously under the impression there was something they were to “**DO**”!
  2. Was Peter’s answer correct if salvation is by ‘grace alone’ and man is ‘wholly passive’?
  3. “*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized...for the remission of sins;...*” (v. 38)
  4. Peter would not have given that answer if salvation was by ‘grace alone’.
  5. His answer shows, beyond any shadow of doubt, man has a part to play in their salvation!
- E. The same is true in the conversion of the jailer in Acts 16. “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” (v. 30)
1. He, too, was obviously under the impression there was something he “**MUST DO**”!
  2. Was Paul’s answer correct if salvation is by ‘grace alone’ and man is ‘wholly passive’?
  3. “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.*” (v. 31)
  4. Paul would not have given that answer if salvation was by ‘grace alone’!
  5. His answer shows, beyond any shadow of doubt, man has a part to play in their salvation!
- F. If salvation is by ‘grace alone’, how could a person be “*almost persuaded...to be a Christian*” like King Agrippa in Acts 26:28?
1. He, too, was obviously under the impression there was something he was to “**DO**”!

## Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 3

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- G. How are we saved?
1. by grace. Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11
  2. by faith. Rom. 5:1; Heb. 11:6
  3. by the blood of Christ. Mt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22
  4. by the Word of God. Jas. 1:21; Rom. 1:16
  5. by hope. Rom. 8:24
  6. by obedience. Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9
  7. by works. Acts 10:34-35; Jas. 2:24
  8. by baptism. Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21
- H. In view of these things, how can anyone say we are saved by any one thing ‘**ALONE**’?
- I. If all these save, then we are **not saved by ‘grace alone’!**

#### Question:

1. **1 Peter 3:20-21** says, “*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*”

**1 Peter 3:20-21** states we are saved like Noah. Was Noah saved by ‘grace alone’? What did he have to DO to be saved from the flood?

#### ANSWER:

- A. The story of Noah begins in **Gen. 6:8** “*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*”
1. No, he was obviously not saved by ‘grace alone’.
- B. God commanded Noah to build an ark. (Gen. 6:14)
- C. Noah had to build the ark.
1. If disobedience caused God to bring the flood upon the earth (Gen. 6:13), Noah’s obedience in building the ark brought about his salvation (1 Pet. 3:20).
- D. **Gen. 6:22** - “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, **SO HE DID.**”

#### QUESTION:

2. If we are saved by ‘grace alone’, then how can we fall from grace? How does Galatians 5:4 refute this false teaching?

#### ANSWER:

- A. We couldn’t! If we’re saved solely by grace there’s no way we can fall from grace!
1. If we do nothing to be saved, there’s nothing we could possibly do to be lost!
- B. **Gal. 5:4** “*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace.***” definitely shows we can fall from grace.
1. Also consider **2 Peter 3:17** “*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, **fall from your own steadfastness.***”

#### Lesson 17

“God Chose Certain Ones To Be Lost Or Saved And They Have No Choice In The Matter!”