

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH
Ephesians 2:8,9

Today & two weeks from now: Salvation by grace and the place of good works (salvation by grace today, good works on the 27th).

Why? Because the vital heritage of the Reformation of the 16th century is being ignored or cast aside by much of the Protestant church today. It is needful to preserve and continue to proclaim the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ – the only hope for lost sinners and the vital heart of the church's calling from God.

1. You are a sinner. You need God's salvation.

Spiritual death (2:1-3): We are helpless to help ourselves.

Real sin and real guilt before the holy & just God: We are liable to His just wrath and judgment.

We cannot save ourselves from ourselves. Only God can do that.

No "good" works we might try to do can make us right with God, because (1) they cannot pay for our sins, and (2) they are not really good in God's sight.

2. God saves sinners by His grace through faith in Christ.

Grace – by definition, a *gift*.

It cannot be earned (and we couldn't earn it anyway).

God's gift(s) of saving grace: His Son, Jesus' death on the cross for our sins, the good news message from God, the life-giving work of the Holy Spirit – showing us our sin and need, bringing us to see Jesus saving work, calling us to repentance and faith.

It is ALL God's gift of grace – even the faith to receive it.

3. Why it is important to be clear on salvation by grace.

a. It is necessary to humble man's sinful pride.

Slavery to sinful pride keeps us from Christ, until grace humbles us.

b. It is necessary for true assurance of salvation.

If we must earn even a tiny part of our salvation, we will always be uncertain: "Have I done enough?"

c. It is necessary to the sufficiency of the work of Christ.

If I must contribute even a tiny part to my salvation, that means Christ's work was not enough and I have something to boast in (or despair).

d. It is necessary to the glory of God.

God's plan of salvation is to the praise of the glory of His grace
(1:6,7, 2:7),

If we try to take credit for any part of our salvation, we rob God of His glory.

All praise to God alone for the grace of His salvation.