



Decade of Availability Salvation and Grace

These few verses may be the most important ‘salvation’ verses in the entire Bible. This is the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel in a few short sentences.

1. **Faith** vv. 21-23

a. The righteousness of God: v. 21 Under the law, salvation is based on perfect human righteousness. Under grace, salvation is based on the righteousness of God. The prophets spoke of it but it is now revealed through Jesus Christ.

b. Through faith: v. 22 This righteousness is available to all who have faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

c. All have sinned: v. 23 All fall short of the glory of God (his standard of righteousness). Our sin is a ‘condition’ based on the action of Adam and Eve.

2. **Grace** vv. 24-26

a. Justification: Justified means to be ‘declared’ righteousness—not made righteous. This is a legal term meaning to be found ‘not guilty.’ Further, justification is the same as forgiveness or remission of sins. A justified person is a forgiven person.

b. Grace: The word grace means ‘a gift.’ Grace is ‘freely’ given. God applies Christ’s righteousness to our account as a gift. His righteousness is ‘imputed’ [credited] to our account as our sin was ‘imputed’ [credited] to His death on the cross.

c. Redemption: The death of Jesus is the ‘basis’ for the sinner’s justification. The Greek word for ‘redeem’ means to ‘lose, to set free to ransom.’ The price of redemption is stated in *1 Peter 1:18-19* “...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

d. Propitiation: v. 25-26; Heb 9:5 [mercy seat]; also *1 John 2:2; 4:10; and lastly Exodus 25:17-22* “And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the Ark of the Testimony...” See also *Lev. 16* for the blood applied to the Mercy Seat.

- I. **By FAITH I believe in Jesus finished work on the cross!**
- II. **His shed blood paid the price of my REDEMPTION**
- III. **I am DECLARED ‘righteous’ [justified]**
- IV. **My salvation is a free gift by His GRACE**
- V. **I am covered by His blood!**

Conclusion—The Law of Faith: vv. 27-31

a. The summary: v. 28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

The law-system cannot make right—only the GRACE system. Repentance and baptism are part of the grace system and Paul will speak of these later in Romans.

**God’s law is absolutely binding upon us and we have an absolute obligation to obey it.
Grace does not change this fact. We are NOT under law as a way of salvation,
but we are always under law as a way of life.**

Romans 3:21-31 (NKJV)

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,

30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

