

# ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL

## The Foundations of Our Faith

Discussion Guide  
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Sermon Title **Grace, Saving Faith, and Good Works** by Herb Burnap

Ephesians 2: 8-10

### Sermon Outline

#### I. His Gift: Salvation by Grace Through Faith

- Remember our previous condition before God's grace abounded toward us.
- But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love for us—made us alive together with Christ (vs. 4-5).
- God's gift: both Grace and Faith
- Paraphrasing vs. 8 and 9: *Salvation is by grace alone through faith and even that faith does not come from ourselves—it is God's free gift to us. Our salvation has nothing to do with anything we do ourselves so that we could ever brag about it.*

#### II. His Workmanship: New Creatures in Christ Jesus

- Workmanship means the art and skill of a craftsman or artisan—the quality of something made with care and forethought.
- The result of His workmanship is a new creature in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5: 17).
  - To be a new creature in Christ, we must be born again (John 3: 3).
  - Old things are passed away; new things come (II Corinthians 5: 17).
- This new creation has been fashioned in the likeness of God (Eph. 4: 24).
- It is God at work within us (Philippians 2: 13)
  - This is our sanctification (Romans 6: 22; I Corinthians 1: 30).
  - God's work in us will be fully completed (Philippians 1: 6).

#### III. His Purpose: Good Works

- The purpose of God's new creation is good works that glorify Him. (Matthew 5: 16; I Peter 2: 12)
- Good works and good deeds are the same thing.
- Those who have saving faith will manifest good works (Matt. 7: 16, 20).
- James correctly declares that faith without works is useless and dead (2: 14-26).
  - This is the ultimate example of being “doers” of the word rather than “hearers” (James 1: 22).
- Good works is working out what God has wrought within (Philippians 2: 12).

#### IV. His Preordained Plan: Our Fruitful Walk

- Good works are not incidental to God's plan (Romans 8: 29-30; John 15: 16).
- Because of God's grace, we have everything we need for good works (II Corinthians 9: 8).
- By our good deeds, God wills that we bear much fruit (Colossians 1: 10; Luke 6: 44; John 15: 5, 8, 16; Galatians 5: 22).
- Christians gathering together for worship and fellowship are intended to stimulate love and good deeds.

**Conclusion:** The work of salvation is a display of divine handiwork. Good works are the fruit of our salvation, not the cause of it. Also, good works are not incidental to God's plan; they are instead an essential part of His redemption plan for each believer. Good works are demonstrated in gratitude, character, and actions.

Source: *HCSB Study Bible*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Ephesians 2: 8-10 (NASB)

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

Hebrews 11: 6 (NASB)

*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

James 1:22 (NASB)

*Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.*

James 2: 17 (NASB)

*You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*

James 2: 24, 26 (NASB)

