

*Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is liberty.*

2Corinthians 3:17

Store In My Heart 1Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

We must constantly guard against our own weaknesses. The context of this verse points to the example of Israel in the wilderness. They were all brought out of Egypt. They all heard the Voice of God on the mount. Yet most of them turned away from God and never saw the land of Canaan because they were distracted by their surroundings. They were not diligent to stay close to God and rejoice in His presence among them. Focusing on their current situation they forgot to keep their goal, the Promised Land, in sight.

We can fall today for similar reasons if we are not diligent in taking heed. We must remain on watch against the things in this world that would cause us to stumble or fall. There is no time to relax our guard in our journey to be with God.

Does Grace Alone Save?

Dan Henderson

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:8 KJV

What is grace? The American Heritage Dictionary defines grace as "a favor rendered by one who need not do so". Merriam-Webster defines it as "unmerited divine assistance given humans for their regeneration or sanctification". How did Noah find grace in God's sight?

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." Genesis 6:5-7

God was preparing to destroy all life on earth. God gave Noah a way to survive the destruction. God told Noah of His plan and instructed him on how build a means of escape. Without this plan from God Noah would surely have drowned with the rest of mankind. **God saved Noah by grace.** But does the story end there? No.

Noah was saved by faith. *By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. Hebrews 11:7* Noah had to believe God was telling the truth. Noah had never seen a flood. This verse also says Noah was saved by preparing and ark. *"...prepared an ark for the salvation of his household..."*

Peter tells us that **Noah and his family were saved by water.** *Who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 1Peter 3:20*

Water cleansed the world of wickedness. *Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. Genesis 6:17*

The water bore up the ark to rise high above the earth. Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. Genesis 7:17

So, what saved Noah, God's grace, Noah's faith, Noah's works, the flood waters? Which of these could he have done without? God's grace was the only way he knew the flood was coming. Noah's faith in God made him listen and obey God's plan. Noah's works built the ark. The flood separated Noah and his family from the old world of sin. All of these were necessary for the saving of Noah and his house. God could have built the ark and put Noah and his family into it, but He didn't.



What of us today? How are we saved?

Paul told the Ephesian brethren - *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.* **Ephesians 2:8-9**

In **1Corinthians** he says God saves those that believe. *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.* **1Corinthians 1:21**

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**

James says we are justified by faith made perfect by works. *You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.* **James 2:22-24**

The inspired apostle Peter says salvation is by baptism. *Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,* **1Peter 3:21**

As with Noah in the days of the flood, God's grace has provided a means of salvation. But to be saved we must believe God. We must work the works that He has commanded. Hearing and believing are but the beginning of salvation. As Noah, we must do all that God commands. *Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.* **Genesis 6:22**

Noah's salvation depended on all that God commanded. God could have built the ark and put Noah in it, but He didn't. He gave Noah a means to be saved. God could have cleansed man of sin, but He chose to save man by means of obedience to His Gospel.

We must repent **Acts 17:30**. We must believe and confess **Romans 10:9-10**. We must believe and be baptized **Mark 16:16**. Obedience to ALL God's commands is the key to salvation!

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. **1Corinthians 1:21**

He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. **Mark 16:16**

Have you been saved "by grace thru faith"? Have you submitted your life in obedience to the Word of God? If not you will be destroyed for your unbelief.

Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. **Jude 1:5**

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

JoBeth Henderson is doing well following her port placement.

Jim Soliday has a heart cath scheduled for late December.

Sue Soliday is not getting around much.

Deberah Brooks is having knee trouble.

Brandy Tolleson will see a neurologist in March. **Leta Rivera** is still having trouble walking.

Bill Venable's son, Tommy Robinson, meets with doctors this week to discuss treatment for his cancer.

Shannon Soliday is sick and running a fever.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 37:30** Wednesday - **Revelation 4**