



About Salvation

By

Mark McGee

Chapters

Saved by Grace Through Faith 3

If You're Saved And You Know It 5

Justified From All Things 19

Saint Mark and You 27

Saved by Grace Through Faith

The Apostle Paul explains the Grace Gospel in beautifully clear and easy to understand words. His letter to the Ephesian Christians is a great example. He begins the letter by telling them about all the wonderful blessings they have in Christ Jesus. Then he tells the Christians how much he loves them and how thankful he is for them. Paul says he wants them to experience God's best in their lives, including that the eyes of their heart would be enlightened so they would know the richness of the gift God had given them. Paul reminds the Ephesians that the power God works in them is the same power He used to raise Jesus from the dead. (Wow!) Just as Paul reaches the pinnacle of his words about all that Christians have in their lives, he takes them quickly back to earth and reminds them what their lives were like before they were saved.

*“And you **He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”* (Ephesians 2:1-3)

That's who we all were at one time: dead in trespasses and sins. We were lost, without hope in this world. Fortunately, God had other plans for us:

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 1:4-9)

God is truly “rich in mercy” and we are all in His debt for that. God loved us even when we were dead in our sins and made a way for us to become spiritually alive. God did that through the sacrificial work of His Son on the Cross. Jesus died for our sins. He did all the heavy lifting to make our salvation possible. God asks us simply to “believe.” How can someone who is spiritually dead express spiritual faith? “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” God does it all! He gives us the grace and the faith. Nothing is from us. It’s all His gift. Nothing about salvation is because we worked for it. If it was, we’d boast about it. God determined long ago that He would provide everything for our salvation: the source, the means, the love, the grace, the faith, the gift. Everything is from God and nothing is from us.

We are saved “by grace through faith.” Amen!

If You're Saved And You Know It

Remember the song we sang as children in church? “If you’re saved and you know it, clap your hands.” I don’t know how many times I sang that and clapped my hands as a child, but it was a lie. I was not saved and I did not know it. I became an atheist for a time, but eventually became a Christian through faith in Christ. It was then that the childhood song took on its proper meaning.

The first words I remember studying about as a new Christian were “save,” “saved,” “salvation,” “Savior,” “faith,” “believe,” and “believer.” I learned that each of these words in the New Testament were first written in Greek and that understanding their meaning in the original language of the New Testament was important to a Christian. So, here’s a quick look at those seven words and what they mean:

“save” – *sozo* ... to save from danger, to deliver

“save” – *diasozo* ... to bring safely through

“saving” – *peripoiesis* ... preservation

“salvation” – *soteria* ... deliverance, preservation

“savior” – *soter* ... deliverer, preserver

“faith” – *pistis* ... firm persuasion, conviction based on hearing, trust completely

“believe” – *pisteuo* ... be persuaded of, place confidence in, trust in

reliance upon

“believe” – *peitho* ... to be persuaded

“believer” – *piston* and *pisteuontes* ... believing ones, trusting ones

To be saved is to be saved from danger. To have salvation is to have deliverance and preservation. Our Savior delivered us from danger and preserves us. To believe that we are in danger and in need of being saved means we must place our faith and trust in the Savior Who alone can save us.

I placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ because I believed my soul was in danger and that He was the only One who could deliver me from that danger and place me in a safe place. To be saved is to be “safe.”

I've heard people say that Jesus did not come to save anyone because no one needs saving. Their view of Jesus is that He was a kind teacher who brought lots of wonderful stories to the Jewish people. I agree that Jesus is a kind Teacher and He did tell the people of Israel many wonderful stories, but I disagree that no one needs saving and that Jesus did not come to save people. That contradicts everything in God's Word. In fact, saving people is the primary reason Jesus came to earth as a baby. Here's what the angel of the Lord told Joseph, Mary's husband: "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

Jesus' name in the Greek (*Iesous*) is a transliteration of the Hebrew name (*Joshua*) that means "Jehovah is salvation." The angel told Joseph to call Mary's baby Jesus, "**for He will save His people from their sins.**" The very **NAME** God gave His Son means "Jehovah is salvation."

Here's more proof that Jesus came to save people from His own words:

"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."
Matthew 18:11

"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." Luke 9:56

"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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:16-17

"Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved." John 5:34

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." John 10:9

"And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world." John 12:47

The followers of Jesus Christ did not change that message. They continued to teach that Jesus came to save people even after He ascended back to His Throne in Heaven.

“And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.” Acts 2:21

“And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’” Acts 2:40

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47

“This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:11-12

“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.” Acts 15:11

“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Acts 16:30-31

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” Romans 5:9

“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” romans 5:10

“But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:8-10

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’ Romans 10:12-13

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” 1 Corinthians 1:21

“For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.” 2 Corinthians 2:15

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:4-10

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:3-4

There is no question about what the New Testament teaches concerning our being in danger and Jesus Christ being our Savior:

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Matthew 2:1

“And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.” John 4:41-42

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” Acts 5:30-32

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope.” 1 Timothy 1:1

“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us

in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.” 2 Timothy 2:8-12

“To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.” Titus 1:4

“... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13

“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:1

“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:17-18

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.” 1 John 4:14

The human race is an endangered species physically and spiritually and in great need of a Savior. That's what Jesus does. He saved people from everlasting punishment. Does God save everyone? No. He saves only those who "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ." What does it take to become a believer? **Faith**. We must believe that Jesus is the one and only way to be saved.

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe." John 1:6-7

"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:11-13

"This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him." John 2:11

"Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said. Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did." John 2:22-23

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life ... He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God ... He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:14-15, 18, 36

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” John 5:24

“Then they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent ... And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst ... And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day ... Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life ... Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” John 6:28-29, 35, 40, 47, 69

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” John 7:38

“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins ... And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.’ As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.” John 8:24, 29-31

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” John 11:25-27

“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.’ These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them ... I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.” John 12:36, 46

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me ... Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me ... Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority;

but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” John 14:1, 6, 10-11

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more ... In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father ... Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.” John 16:8-10, 26-28, 30

“For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me ... I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” John 17:8, 20-21

“And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.” John 19:35

“Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “‘We have seen the Lord.’ So he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:24-31

Salvation is the greatest experience I've ever had in life. I was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see. If you have not received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior – if you have not confessed your sins to God, asked for His forgiveness and the wonderful gift of

eternal life through Jesus Christ – I invite you to do that right now. Don't wait, don't put it off. We just don't know what's going to happen to us today or tomorrow or this week. We need to take care of eternal things now, while there's time.

Justified From All Things

Some of the important Bible words I learned about during my first year as a Christian. Those words were:

- save
- saved
- salvation
- Savior
- faith
- believe
- believer

Next, a new word that is eternally joined to faith in Christ:

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.” Acts 13:38-39

That word is **justified**. Paul taught that “everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.” The word “justified” comes from the root Greek word *dikaios*. It was used of people who did what was right and came to mean “a state of being right, righteous.” The word *dike* is translated as **justice**. The word justified is the translation of *dikaioo*, “to deem to be right.”

The idea of being right or righteous is based on someone who is already right/righteous pronouncing another person to be righteous. That pronouncement came from someone in the position of being a judge. The judge's pronouncement was based on what was right according to customs and laws. Customs and laws came from those who had the right to make laws (*nomothetes* – lawgiver). Our Lord's step-brother, James, made it clear that God is the only One Who can make just laws: "There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?" (James 4:12) The Psalmist made it clear that no one could stand before God if He counted our sins against us: "If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3) Fortunately, the Psalmist added an important truth about how God deals with us: "But *there is* forgiveness with You, That You may be feared." (Psalm 130:4)

God established the Laws and determined how justice would be determined. Interestingly, no one was able to be justified by the Law of God. That's why God instituted the blood sacrifice from the very beginning of sin. That sacrifice looked forward to the day when God's Son would shed His Blood for us. It also looked forward to the day when you and I would place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and why we are "justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses."

We call that being “justified by faith alone.” It was the great cry of the Reformers centuries ago:

“Justification is the article where the church stand or falls ... This one and firm rock, which we call the doctrine of justification, is the chief article of the whole Christian doctrine, which comprehends the understanding of all godliness ... The first and chief article is this: Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification. He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works and merits, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood. This is necessary to believe. This cannot be otherwise acquired or grasped by any work, law, or merit. Therefore, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us.” **Martin Luther**

“Justification is withdrawn from works, not that no good works may be done, or that what is done may be denied to be good, but that we may not rely upon them, glory in them, or ascribe salvation to them ... Our righteousness is not in us but in Christ, ... we possess it only because we are partakers in Christ ... We say that faith justifies, not because it merits righteousness for us by its own worth, but because it is an instrument whereby we obtain free the righteousness of Christ ... The power of justifying, which faith possesses, does not lie in any worth of works. Our justification rests on God’s mercy alone and Christ’s

merit, and faith, when it lays hold of justification, is said to justify.” **John Calvin**

“Justification is the soul of Christianity and the fountainhead of all true comfort and sanctification. He who errs in this doctrine errs to his eternal destruction.” **Wilhelmus `a Brakel**

The Protestant reformers were powerful in their persuasion because they returned to the true meaning of **justification** in the Bible. They returned to the great message of Christ through Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles:

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where *is* boasting then? It is

excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or *is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.” Romans 3:19-31

“What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.’” Romans 4:1-8

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God ... Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath

through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life ... But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. " Romans 5:1-2, 9-10, 15-21

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also

called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?" Romans 8:29-31

"We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. 'But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!" Galatians 2:15-17

"Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.' But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for 'the just shall live by faith.' Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them ... But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But

after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” Galatians 3:7-12, 23-25

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:4-7

Do you see it? We are “made right before God” by Christ! We are justified by **faith** in Christ. It is not because of **works** that we have done. It is not because of our obedience to the Law of Moses. It is according to His **mercy** that He saved us, “that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Praise God! What a Savior!

Saint Mark and You

Have you heard about Saint Mark? No, not the Mark who wrote one of the Gospels in the Bible. I'm talking about **every** Christian named Mark. The same's true about Saint Paul, Saint John, Saint Peter, Saint Victoria, Saint Stephen, Saint Nathan, Saint Brooke, Saint Annalyse, Saint Lucy, Saint Charlotte, Saint Herbert, Saint Julie, Saint Robert, Saint Al, Saint Greg, Saint Jack, Saint Henry, Saint Jeff ... and the list goes on. Every Christian is a "saint." Here's some of what Paul wrote about them.

"To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 1:7

"But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints."
Romans 15:25

"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours." 1 Corinthians 1:2

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?" 1 Corinthians 6:2

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia” 2 Corinthians 1:1

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 1:1

“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” Ephesians 3:8

“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.” Philippians 1:1

“All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household.” Philippians 4:22

“To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Colossians 1:2

“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been

revealed to His saints.” Colossians 1:24-26

We learn a lot about being a saint from these Bible references:

- Believers in Rome were called saints
- Believers in Jerusalem were called saints
- Believers in Corinth were called saints
- Believers in the region of Achaia were called saints
- Believers in Ephesus were called saints
- Believers in Philippi were called saints
- Believers in Caesar’s household were called saints
- Believers in Colosse were called saints
- Saint Paul said he was “less than the least of all the saints”
- The mystery of God was hidden from ages and generations, but was revealed to His saints
- Saints will judge the world

How does someone become a saint? Many religious groups “recognize,” then “canonize” believers they think God has chosen to be saints. They believe sainthood demonstrates that the canonized person performed sacrificial and holy service to God and is therefore already in Heaven and not somewhere waiting to get into Heaven.

If that’s true, why would Paul and other apostles call believers still alive on earth “saints” when it was obvious they had not died and gone to Heaven? Did the apostles get it wrong? I don’t think so.

God's Word makes it abundantly clear that **every** Christian is a saint. The Greek word for **saint** is *hagios*. It translates as "holy, sanctified, set apart for holy service." The word in the New Testament for "holy" is *hagios*. The word in the New Testament for "sanctify" is *hagiazo* and is used for anything set apart as holy for service to God. That's what it means to be a "saint."

Christians, every one of us, are chosen by God and set apart for and separated to holy service. Becoming a saint has **nothing** to do with our sacrifice on earth. It has **everything** to do with Christ's sacrifice on the Cross! Christians are saved by grace through faith, "and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) So that **no one can boast!**

Remember what we saw in the last chapter about being justified? *"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law."* (Romans 3:27-28) God makes it clear that He will allow us only one boast: *"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."* (Galatians 6:14) Our boasting is in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross and out of the grave. He alone deserves praise and honor and glory!

We are saints because God has set us apart to serve Him in holiness. That's why Paul wrote this to the **saints who are in Ephesus** — *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus*

Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” (Ephesians 1:3-4)

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Did you receive His Gift of Eternal Life by Grace through Faith? Then you are a **saint** - set apart for holy service to the Almighty God of Heaven. Today's another day of service for you and me to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Copyright © 1990-2015 GraceLife Ministries

“Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”