

SALVATION LIFE – BY GRACE

**By
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We will be speaking of the Reality of our great Salvation that we have now in Christ. This means The Life we have received, and the Life we can be living now: Eternal Life. But “Eternal Life” is not “me living for ever”, but the Relationship we now have with God by receiving His Son. **John 17:2:** *“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”* This is experiencing His Life, as One with The Father by the Resurrected Son of God who is Life. This Relationship of “knowing” God as Father in His Son is the Reality of our Salvation, and the Life we should be living every day. When Jesus walked on this earth He always walked in Relationship with His Father, in Oneness; and this is the Life God has given to us. And He desires that we would always walk in this understanding of union with God.

The word “know” in John 17:3 is the Greek GINOSKO (Strong’s #1097) and is not speaking of a theological or intellectual knowledge, but an experiential one. It means “to know absolutely, allow, be aware of, perceive, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand.” God has brought us into this union while we are here in the earth so that we would manifest this Relationship in the earth. Now even though this Relationship is Spiritual, Heavenly: it will have manifestation in the earth! We,

as believers are to be the declaring of this union (not just by “preaching it”, but by living it) to the world. Jesus spoke of this in **John 17:20**: *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21: That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe** that thou hast sent me. 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and **that the world may know** that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”* So we can see that this was all for God’s Glory – that HE would be believed in because of this Union being manifested in the lives of Believers.

We quote **Acts 17:28**, “...in him we live, and move, and have our being”, but the Lord is challenging us: are we merely saying that because it is the Scripture, or are we daily experiencing that? Because “our” daily lives should be different if we truly are finding our Life and Being not only in Him (as the “position” of our Salvation), but as importantly, with the nature of Christ: living in this earth as His Body, with Christ as The Head and ruling in all things. And because we are having His Life, we have a new State of Being. And the Reality is that we are One with Him, having One Life – His. This is because of The Finished Work of The Cross: this is how God knows Salvation to be. And the Lord wants us to live daily according to HIS Truth, not our religious imaginations and fleshly efforts. And again, this is not an intellectual knowing, but an experiencing of The Truth of our Salvation that is evident in our daily living.

- **Colossians 1:9**: *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10: That ye might walk worthy*

of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

- **Ephesians 4:1:** *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."*
- **I Thessalonians 2:12:** *"That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."*
- **II Corinthians 2:14:** *"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15: For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:"*

So we need to seriously consider the Reality of our Salvation NOW and walk worthy of that Truth. Remember this is not a promise of something yet to come, but we are to be living in the Reality of what The Finished Work of The Cross has accomplished. We have to find ourselves in HIM not having ANYTHING of our own. By The Father's Plan we are IN CHRIST, but now we have to be FOUND there and no where else. This was the Apostle Paul's heart. And he was willing to give up everything of "his" life, "his" religion, "his" knowledge of God so that he could fully discover everything of his New Life – not another religion, but CHRIST. **Philippians 3:8:** *"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"* The word "in" means a state of rest. And that is really only achieved when we come to

the Truth of “not I”: that I am dead, and **Christ only is Life**. This comes by comprehending the Finished Work of The Cross and allowing that Work (of Death, Burial and Resurrection) to be worked in us. And then everything we do is done in the consciousness of this state: of Life – Eternal Life, of being in Him and in Union with God. Then we will be the witness of CHRIST in the earth that the Father desires: living in Resurrected Life - HIS. The reason most Christians are not living (functioning daily) in this Reality is that we are still trying to find Life amongst the dead: WE are still trying to live, rather than finding Christ to be our Life: the only Life we have.

And my heart towards Believers is that we not take our Salvation lightly. Our Eternal Salvation and Life is a most glorious and precious thing, and we need to guard it and rejoice in it, and desire to experience the fulness of it day by day. The writer to the Hebrews admonishes us: **Hebrews 2:1:** *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip...3:* *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”* So in this regard I want to bring in another word regarding Salvation and The Life we are now having. That word is **GRACE**. And as with so many other words and concepts, we don’t understand God’s view of Grace. Now there are many aspects of Grace to comprehend and ways that God’s Grace functions that we cannot address in this short message. But coming to God’s View of Grace is essential to comprehending our great Salvation and walking (living daily) in the Reality of what God has done. And remember God wants us to experience our Salvation and walk in it NOW while we are here in the earth. He desires that we fully come to know His Grace for ourselves, and then be the manifestation of HIS GRACE to others.

So for this lesson I want to briefly define Grace in the Scriptures and see how it works. But let me begin with a definition in Strong's Concordance for GRACE: the word CHARIS (#5485) that has really blessed my heart. 'Graciousness of manner or act. The divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life (including gratitude).' This is speaking of something that comes from God, but has an effect upon the heart of those who receive God's Grace. It also is defined as 'benefit, favour, gift, joy.' And Grace is the basis of our Salvation! **Ephesians 2:8:** *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Grace is God showing His favor and His love and His benefits. But it is important to see that Grace is a gift: something we do not earn or work for, but what God gives out from Himself. This is all according to His Love: but how did God show us His Love? Who is the manifestation of God's Love and Grace? **His Son!** God showed us His Grace and Love in His Son at the Cross. **John 1:17:** *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* Under the Old Covenant Law man tried to live right and please God, but he couldn't. And the Law never brought Salvation or Life even though it spoke of it. But Grace and Truth came BY Jesus Christ. The word "came" means to cause to be, be brought to pass, be fulfilled, be performed.

God's Grace was MANIFESTED in The very Person of His Son coming to the earth in the form of man to accomplish everything that God desired. God's Gift, God's Grace, God's Love, God's Favor, and the Reality of everything that God had promised under the Law came and was FULFILLED by Jesus Christ. But I want us to see this is not something He simply had and gave to us: but **HE is the Gift!** And when we receive Him we receive freely everything that God has for us: Salvation, Life,

Forgiveness of sin, Favor, Acceptance with God, Joy, Peace, Righteousness, Sanctification, Justification, Redemption – the “all things” of God! HE is God’s GRACE and by receiving His Son and The Cross we become partakers of God’s Grace. And here is something we may never have thought of: **THE CROSS IS GOD’S GIFT TO US!** THE DEATH OF HIS SON IS A GIFT TO SINFUL MAN! We can now experience God’s favor in our daily lives here in the earth. This is all because of The Finished Work of Jesus, The Son of God. **Hebrews 4:16:** *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* We do not have, as the Old Covenant saints a PROMISE of something to come: we can NOW experience ALL of God’s Grace and Mercy!

Now this knowledge is truly worthy of thanksgiving, but it is also cause for us to reflect seriously on: by those of us who have received God’s Grace. His Grace – being shown to us in The Person of His Son by His Cross should have an influence upon our hearts! And there should be a reflection of that Grace in the lives of those who have received it. And I have been greatly challenged of the Lord in this regard. We “say” that we are “saved by Grace” – and we are! We “say” God has dealt with us not according to what we deserve, but according to His graciousness: showing us favor and giving us benefits that we in ourselves should not receive. But the question is: is HIS GRACE reflected in “our” lives? Are we truly grateful for what HE has done for us and for the Salvation and Life He has given us, and are we allowing His Grace to be seen in us?

We have read in Ephesians that we are NOT saved by “our” good works. That also speaks of “our” religious fervor and trying to please God by adhering to a set of rules: trying to know God and our Salvation according to an “Old Covenant mentality.” That is contrary to God’s Grace! The Apostle Paul

knew the difference and we must also. **Galatians 2:21:** *"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."* And notice here that "Grace" is associated with Christ's death. When we still try to go back to knowing and worshipping God by the Law, then we are frustrating God's Grace and saying that Christ's death (which fulfilled God's Grace) was in vain! And that is very serious! Remember God's Grace is what HE has done: not us.

We must accept the Grace shown to us by Jesus Christ and His Cross, and not frustrate what it has accomplished by trying to win favor with God outside of that Finished Work. The Lord continues to challenge me in this regard. And knowing the Grace that we have received of God, are we extending that Grace to others? Are we living daily as those under The Divine influence of His Love? God desires that we do: not just quoting scriptures speaking of His Grace – that is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9): but living daily as those who are experiencing and manifesting HIS GRACE. God wants us to live by The Truth, The Reality of The Grace that came by Jesus Christ: that Grace that we are now partakers of.

Now God's view of Grace is Eternally tied to The Cross and this is the view we have to come to also. Grace is not an excuse for us to sin because we say that God will forgive us. We need to understand that except for God's Grace we would have no chance at all for Salvation and a Relationship with God! This is a serious matter, and not to be taken lightly. **Romans 3:23:** *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"* The SON was made the victim who atoned

for our sins. God's Grace is His Son and the Death that He died: not only for us, but AS US, as the man of sin. And by that Death He fulfilled God's righteous demands of the Law. This is something we really have to understand in order to appreciate God's Grace: by what He did at the Cross. He did what we could not do for ourselves. The Cross showed us God's love!

Romans 5:6: *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."* Please think of this! We were dead **IN** sin, and could NOT become dead **TO** sin. And no amount of religion could change our status – dead in sin. But He died that Death that would satisfy God as all mankind when He became sin. **Romans 5:7:** *"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9: Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10: For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."* Man could not... **BUT GOD...CHRIST DIED... that is God's GRACE!** Now being justified by His Blood, we shall be saved from wrath through HIM. God poured out His wrath against sinful man on Jesus on The Cross, and we don't have to face God's wrath ourselves. You talk about a Gift!

And now being reconciled to God: because we are changed from the Old Adamic man who was alienated from God to a New Man who is in Union with God, we are being saved and experiencing Salvation by His Life. God's Grace, God's Gift of His Son is so great because yes, it is Death, but also LIFE – a New Life, as One with God. And we need to appreciate the price He paid to give us this Salvation and not take it lightly. He did for us what WE could not do for ourselves, and no one else

could either! We did not deserve what God's Grace, God's Son did by the Work of The Cross: but that was God's Plan. And coming to know God's Grace should have an influence in "our" lives. **I Corinthians 6:19:** *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20: For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* The "price" The Lord Jesus paid was His Death on The Cross when He became sin for us and lost (for a moment) His Union with God. But this was done so that WE could be brought into a Relationship of Life with God. **II Corinthians 5:21:** *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

This is all because of what God has done. **Ephesians 2:1:** *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by grace ye are saved;**) 6: And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."* This is HIS GRACE in operation. He showed HIS GRACE even when we were dead to Him: dead in trespasses and sins, and were by our sinful nature alienated from Him and could not come to Him. And even the Old Covenant (and our religions of today) could not change that nature. But God showed us HIS

Love and Grace. First God gave us the Death of The Cross by which the man of sin died. Then He gave us Life (to those who receive Him) as One with Christ, and raised us as His Body in the heavens. This is wonderful for us, but verse 7 gives us the reason: that God would demonstrate the riches of HIS GRACE toward us through Christ. So our daily living today is BY Grace and should be demonstrating God's Grace to the world: by the Life we live in the flesh. **Galatians 2:20:** *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* And the demonstrating of God's Grace is not I, but CHRIST.

We have said that God's Grace is a Gift freely given and not what we earn by our works. There is One who embodies that thought: Christ Jesus who is, and gives us God's Grace – Justification, Righteousness, Life, Salvation etc. And we need to appreciate how great this Gift is! We read of this glorious Gift that only this One could give and what He did give at The Cross in Romans 5. And notice the difference between what we have received in Adam, and what we can receive in Christ. We know that because of Adam's disobedience death by sin came to all man. But God's GRACE is greater! This is the "Much More" of our Salvation in Christ.

Romans 5:15: *"But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, **much more** the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16: And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17: For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; **much more** they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

*18: Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20: Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did **much more** abound: 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Notice here the "by one" and "many": by one (Adam) and his offense many are dead (those in Adam). And by that one man's offense judgment came on all to condemnation. The disobedience of one man – Adam made the many sinners: and death reigned. And the Law came in to deal with this condition, but the Law did NOT remedy the situation - sin abounded! But that is not the end of the matter – GRACE DID MORE ABOUND!! Grace is the "MUCH MORE"! The free Gift by One, Jesus Christ is not unto condemnation, but (for all men who receive Him) justification (of right standing with God). By this Gift of righteousness we can reign in Life by One – Jesus Christ. By the obedience of One, many are made righteous: and His obedience was to The Cross - His death, burial and resurrection. God's Grace is greater than sin (it used to reign unto death for all before He came). But now as we partake of His Work of The Cross His Grace reigns through righteousness unto Eternal Life – by One – for many: those who will receive God's Grace. It is all by One – **Jesus Christ our Lord**. He is the Grace of God, and we now can Live in Him, with His Life. What a Gift!

God desires that we live in the earth as a manifestation of this Grace that has been made known to us in the Person of His Son by His Cross. This is His Grace imparted into our lives: influencing us in every aspect of our daily being. This was

Peter's desire for the Church. **2 Peter 1: 2**; *"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."* So may our hearts desire to know HIM more and more, appreciate His Grace and live in the earth as an expression of that Grace that we have received.

Amen