

Ephesians 2:8-10 - The Three R's of Salvation

The basics of education used to be condensed into the 3 R's - *Reading, Writing & Arithmetic*. We have gotten away from that simple equation. Problem - there is only 1 "R" in the 3 "R's" (reading) leads to a question on spelling - to spell writing & arithmetic with an "r" is just r o n g wrong. But our text today addresses the basics...The Three R's of Salvation - grace, faith & works. There is an *order of operation* to these 3 r's if they are to add up to salvation. You can't mess with the proper order (or definition) of the three or else it negates the three. You might have noticed that none of my 3 R's begin with R. Let's fix that to begin with - **Grace** is the **REASON** for salvation. **Faith** is the **ROUTE** to salvation. **Works** are the **RESULT** of salvation. We could take one week for each of these, but we are going to put them all together today - they all go together.

The REASON for Salvation

- Eph. 2:8a *"For by grace you have been saved..."*
 - This is the 6th time *grace* is mentioned and the 2nd time for this this exact phrase
 - 2:5 Grace is the reason for salvation
 - Grace is the only motivating factor that moves God to be kind/save sinful men.
- Grace is a gift.
 - Grace = *charis* = gift (charismatic) *hesed* = favor/loving-kindness/goodwill
- Grace is an undeserved gift. Grace is an unmerited favor
 - Did you ever get a merit badge?
 - God is not respecter of persons (no accolades/achievements/merits that attract Him to us)
 - There are reasons I like and love my wife. I am attracted to her.
 - Grace is unmerited favor...unearned kindness...underserved goodwill & love
 - There are no reasons in us for God to like us, be gracious to, or love us.
- Grace is a de-merited favor.
 - Did you ever get demerits in school? Sins are demerits / marks against - smiley face/gold star
 - Grace is more than an undeserved gift or a nicety to a neutral party...
 - Grace is a gift given to an enemy. (2:2 - sons of disobedience 2:3 children of wrath)
 - A gift/kindness to Hitler from the Jews would be a grace
 - God's grace is not given to nice party...or a neutral party...
 - God's grace it given to His sworn enemies. The Holy God is gracious to sinful men
 - Grace is being lovingly noticed by God...for no reason in yourself... in spite of the fact that you have given Him every reason to go unnoticed and to remain justly unloved by Him. Grace gives undeserved love to the unlovely instead of a deserved wrath
- Grace is free.
 - God is under no obligation to be gracious to us. Ex. 33:19
 - God doesn't have to gracious or need to be gracious...He just wants to
- Grace omits/excludes our works. Rom. 11:5-6
 - Our works do not factor in....except only as an incentive for God not to be gracious

The ROUTE to Salvation

- Eph. 2:8 “...through faith...” Faith is the route to salvation
 - Faith doesn't save us...Jesus saves us
 - But faith is the vehicle that gets us to Jesus...who saves us.
- What is saving faith?
 - Saving faith has three ingredients.
 - Knowledge *I know whom I have believed...*
 - Belief/persuasion *...and am persuaded that He is able...*
 - Trust/ commitment *...to keep that which I've committed unto Him...*
 - Many can have a knowledge about Jesus and His gospel...but not persuaded
 - Many may have knowledge and are persuaded but are not committed/trusting
- Charles Blondin - tight-rope walker - pushed wheelbarrow across Niagara Falls
 - Many knew he could...were persuaded he could...but get in the barrow?
 - Faith is getting in the barrow and trusting Jesus to carry you over the pits of hell and into eternity.
 - Faith is having all your eggs in Jesus' basket.
 - Faith is trusting in Jesus....wholly in Jesus....and only in Jesus...clinging to Jesus
 - Faith is clinging to Jesus as He carries you across, and knowing that He is holding on to you.
- Faith is a gift
 - Eph. 2:8
 - Phil. 1:29 2 Peter 1:1 Acts 18:27c Acts 16:14
- Faith excludes works and boasting
 - Eph. 2:9
 - Rom. 3:27-28 Rom. 4:2-3 1 Cor. 1:30-31 1 Cor. 4:7
 - Faith is the result of God's gracious work in us.
 - God gifts us faith so we might fly to Christ and be saved.
 - Cause and effect (order of operation) God's grace and gift enable us to believe.

The RESULT of Salvation

- Works are in the equation of salvation...just not in the acquiring salvation
 - Eph. 2:8-10
 - Works are the necessary result to salvation. Don't leave out verse 10
 - Our works don't factor in, in receiving salvation, but are the product of salvation
- Works are not the root of salvation, but they are the fruit of salvation.
 - James 2:17-18 Titus 2:11-12
 - Rom. 5:20-21 John 15:8
 - There is no such thing as an unfruitful Christian
 - Every Christian is God's workmanship....He worked in us by grace/faith
 - God's work in us will produce work out of us....fruit
 - God created us to work and re-created us for good works.
 - What work has God prepared beforehand for you to do?
 - Is there any evidence that your faith is a saving faith?
- The 3 “R's”