

TWISTED SCRIPTURE

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Week 1 - Saved by Grace

Theme Verses: Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 3:21-31

Big Idea: SALVATION BY GRACE

- Salvation is 100 percent a work of God--we are unable to do anything meriting God's favor.
- When we experience what the Bible calls the New Birth (John 3:3-8), we are then SAVED, we pass from death to life (Eph 2:1-6; John 5:24; 6:40; 6:47).
- As a part of the gift of Salvation, we become adopted children of God (Gal 3:26-4:7).
- When we sin, God deals with us as a Father to a child (Heb 12:4-8).

Key Points:

1. Salvation by grace means that Jesus has _____ us from death and judgment.

By going to the cross, Jesus paid the penalty that we are under because of our sin. Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you *have been saved*...."

2. Salvation by grace alone means that we did absolutely nothing to _____ or _____ salvation.

Simply defined, *grace is God's unmerited favor*. If you did anything to earn it or deserve it, it is not grace. If God owes it to you because you're a pretty good person or you've tried to do the best you can, it is not grace. Grace means that you get the opposite of what you deserve. You deserve God's wrath because you have sinned against Him. Instead, He saves you by His grace.

3. Salvation is God's _____ gift to us.

Paul says that God's gift is "not as a result of works." It is completely free, stemming from God's grace alone. Many begin too muddy the grace of God at this point, believing that we are saved by grace through faith, but *not* by grace through faith *alone*. Rather, we must cooperate by adding our works.

4. Salvation gives all the _____ to God rather than us.

Ephesians 2:9 "so that no one may boast." 1 Corinthians 1:31 "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." Paul says, if salvation is totally of the Lord, then He gets all the glory

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Have you ever come close to getting in trouble with the law?

Ponderings:

2. If you were the person who was deserving of the death penalty, what would the word "justify" mean? (Romans 3)
3. If you were a slave, what would the word "redemption" mean to you? (Romans 3)
4. If you were a Jew who brought a yearly sacrifice to postpone God's judgment on you, what would the word "atonement" mean to you? (Romans 3)
5. Until now, what had you understood "faith without works is dead" to mean?

Promptings:

6. How is the message of grace currently impacting your life?
7. Since salvation is a free gift from God, what are the implications in your everyday walk with the Lord?
8. How has your salvation experience brought glory to God? Be practical.
9. Since Christ has finished the work of salvation, in what ways have you learned to rest in His completed work?