

# Salvation by Grace Through Faith: The only way to be saved

## AN EXTRAORDINARY PASSAGE

“1. And you hath he **quicken**ed, 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 **quicken**ed 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. 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.”

- I. **THE CONDITIONS OF MAN:** Before we can explain how a person gets saved or acquires salvation it is important to understand the various conditions of man. **Pre-Fall, Post-fall/Pre-Redemption** and the destiny of this man and lastly **Redeemed**.
  - A. Paul speaking to the Church in Ephesus says, “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins”. That is he speaks to those already quickened or made alive. Or he is speaking to those that have been already saved.
  - B. Then the verse continues to say, “who were dead in trespasses and sins”. He is speaking to saved people and reminding them of **their horrible state prior to salvation**. You were dead, Paul says, not almost alive or almost dead but dead.
    1. What the word means in the Greek it also means in English. Literally, destitute of life, destitute of force or power, inactive and inoperative. Able of doing nothing, especially that which is good i.e. keeping God’s law.
  - C. We can conclude from this statement that all mankind prior to receiving salvation from Jesus are “**walking dead people**”. Though alive in the flesh they are lifeless to God and from God’s eternal perspective. In a spiritual sense they are truly dead.
- II. **PRE-FALL**
  - A. Though this is the case for every single human being on earth outside of Christ **this was not always the way things were**. Before the fall, man was morally and intellectually perfect.
    1. He **enjoyed** complete and unadulterated fellowship with his creator. He was privileged to walk with voice of the Lord God in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8, most likely this happened frequently prior to the fall) and
    2. his very **first day** of existence was a day of rest (Genesis 1:27,31 + 2:2) .
    3. In Genesis 2:19 we see that Adam was **endowed with mental powers** beyond anything we know presently and ever have known since him due to the fact that

he was able to name all the creatures that God had created.

4. Also along with naming every creature he was **given authority** to subdue and have dominion over every living thing that moves upon earth (Genesis 1:28)
5. And as a side note, when we see the state of man prior to the fall and what the state of man is as a result of the fall we get a clear, vivid and contrasting picture of what the theory of evolution purports. The theory of course says that man went from stupid to smart. But that is absolutely not what we see in scripture. Man was at one time great intellectually, and compared to what we consider great intellect today man back in the garden far surpassed anything we are familiar with.
  - a) R.A. Torrey said “Whatever truth there may be in the doctrine of evolution as applied within the limits to the animal world, it breaks down when applied to man. It contradicts not only Scripture, but also the known facts of history. The development of man from an originally low order of intellectual beings closely resembling the ape is a figment of unbridled imagination falsely dubbed ‘science.’ There is absolutely not one fact to sustain it. The first view we get of man is one of splendid intellectual powers.”
6. Not only of splendid intellectual powers but also of one so very privileged to spend his entire existence with and in the presence of God.

### III. POST-FALL/PRE-REDEMPTION

- A. Sadly the story of man in his unsullied state does not last long. Soon after the glorious events of fellowship with God, resting with God, naming the creatures and being given authority to have dominion, man, Adam sins, and therefor dies spiritually never to enjoy that which he previously enjoyed prior to sinning.
- B. Man sinning answers the question of **how man ended up as a “walking dead person”**. This we see clearly in Genesis 2:16-17 where it says “the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: *for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*” Adam was given a command to obey from God. But this we know he did not do. In Genesis 3:6 we learn the sad story of man’s rebellion against God. When Eve was deceived by the serpent and saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food, pleasant to the eyes and the tree was to be desired to make one wise she took of the forbidden tree and ate. Next she brought the fruit to her husband and he ate with her and both died. Remember it said “in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” and in Ezekiel 18:4 it says “...the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” So we see where and when death entered the world and man. We also see that it was by sin that this happened. Sin caused death to enter into man and into the entire creation. This is what we call the “Fall of Man”. As Paul said to the Ephesians, they were previously dead in trespass and sin.
- C. Adam and Eve sinned then (about 4004-4000BC). What about now? Are all who are outside of Christ dead too? Yes! Mankind is inherently dead spiritually and born that way. Man does not become a sinner when he commits sin but commits sin because he is a sinner.
  1. **Romans 5:12** says “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

a) Through Adam **sin entered the world**

(1) The entire human race after Adam is tainted by sin because *through Adam* sin entered the entire human race. He is our corporate head/ leader.

b) Because of sin (which entered through adam) **death also entered the world.**

(1) And because all are sinners and all sin all will die apart from Christ due to their sin.

2. Adam stood as the representative of the race; indeed he was the race, and all coming generations were in him.(Compare Hebrews 7:9-10.) In his fall the race fell. "All sinned."

D. Lets look at other verses that speak of mans fallen state. This is the state of everyman outside the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

1. **Romans 3:23** "For *all have sinned*, and come short of the glory of God;"

2. **Isaiah 53:6** "All we like sheep have *gone astray*; we have turned every one to his own way..."

3. **Romans 3:9** "...both Jews and Gentiles ... are *all under sin*;"

4. **Romans 3:19** "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and *all the world may become guilty before God.*" The purpose of the law is to expose our guilt and sin.

5. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** "For *there is not a just man upon earth*, that doeth good, and sinneth not."

6. **Romans 3:10** "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"

7. **Galatians 3:22** "But the scripture hath concluded *all under sin* (stop reading) that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

8. **Psalms 14:1-3** "They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

E. In these verses we can see that all men outside of Jesus' saving grace are equal in God's eyes. All the world is brought under the judgment of God. All are seen as sinners.

F. Further more not one human being will open his mouth in self defense before God. As it says in **Romans 3:19** "That every mouth may be stopped". There will be none to bargain or attempt to bribe God. All mouths are shut up under a guilty verdict doled out by the law of God. Before we ever even stand before God on judgment day we can know if we are guilty or innocent and we do this by the law of God.

1. The fact that all people are without excuse (Romans 1:20), every mouth is stopped before Him and all are become guilty before God due to the law of God exposing the guilt, shows that those that die in this condition are worthy of

judgment. A person who receives judgment had to walk over the dead body of Jesus so to speak and reject the grace that has been extended to Him or her. It says clearly that God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. He is surely reaching out to all humanity and offering and re-offering again and again, because he is longsuffering, salvation to everyone. God will send to hell all those that reject His son and his gift of grace. Why? Because God honors our choice to reject him!

G. The person who is in this state currently will live out a bleak existence on earth and when he/she dies in this state will have a tormenting existence for all eternity! Listen to what the Bible says:

1. **John 8:24** "...for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins."
2. **John 5:28–29** "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."
3. **Romans 2:5-6** "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"
4. **Romans 2:8-9** "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;"
5. **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9** "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

H. The death, destruction and torment that Christ rejecters will receive is not unto annihilation of being nor is it a place of non-conscious existence. Death and destruction don't mean annihilation.

1. The use of the word death in the Bible.

a) **1 Timothy 5:6** "But she that liveth in pleasure is *dead while she liveth*."

b) **Ephesians 2:1** "And you hath he quickened, who were *dead* in trespasses and sins;"

- (1) So the word death is applied to sinners while still existing, but existing in a wrong way—while they have life in the sense of existence, but not true life, real life, in the sense of right existence.

2. The use of the word destruction in the Bible.

a) **Matthew 9:17** "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles *perish*: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

- (1) The word perish is the word for "destruction" or "perdition". When anything is said to perish it is not meant that it ceases to be, but that it is

so ruined that it no longer serves the use for which it was designed.

I. Verses that speak clearly of Hell as a place of eternal torment

1. **Matthew 25:41** “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, *into everlasting fire*, prepared for the devil and his angels:”
2. **Revelation 20:10** “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and *shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*”
3. **Revelation 14:11** “And *the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever*: and they have *no rest day nor night*, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

J. The use of the phrase for “ever and ever” in the Bible.

1. The phrase occurs 13 times in the book of revelation. Rev 1:6; 4:9-10; 5:13; 7:12; 10:6; 11:5; 14:11; 15:7; 19:2-3; 20:10; 22:5.
  - a) Nine times it speaks of the reign and glory of Christ
  - b) Once of the reign of the righteous (22:5)
  - c) Three times it speaks of the duration of torment to all the wicked.
2. The word everlasting or eternal means “age-long” and can be used to speak of a long but limited amount of time. But “ever and ever” means “unto the ages of the ages” or “unto ages of ages” not throughout an age but throughout all ages. The picture is one of ages tumbling upon ages endlessly not years tumbling upon years. This phrase is never used of a limited period. It speaks of absolute endlessness.

K. This is the fate of all those who die in their sins

#### IV. REDEEMED

A. How does one escape the wrath that is to come?

1. **John 3:18** “He that *believeth* on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
2. Believing causes any and all to escape the wrath to come.

B. People say this is too simple. People say that they will stand for themselves. That they have done enough good or not too much bad and so will be “okay” on judgment day. But think of this, not even Adam could stand for himself and he fell in a perfect world. Look at the world we have to live in. It is so infested with evil influences everywhere you turn. You will never stand.

C. God’s plan is not to have you stand on your own. His plan is far more gracious than this because he knows that you can’t stand.

1. No one will ever be justified by works (standing on their own). Why? because the Bible says in **Galatians 3:10** that all who “are of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is ever one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law” and in **James 2:10** it says “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all.” To be able to stand on your own you must be perfect and that none of us are.

D. We are justified freely by His grace through faith!

1. **Romans 3:24** “ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”

E. Jesus paid the fine we could never pay! Listen to these amazing verses.

1. **Galatians 3:13** “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree.”
2. **1 Peter 2:24** “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
3. **Isaiah 53:6** “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
4. **2 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.”

F. We receive this justification by faith! Works have nothing to do with it and faith is not a work. Faith is trusting in the work of another viz. Jesus’ work on the cross.

1. **Romans 4:5** “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is *counted* for righteousness.”
  - a) “ Works have nothing to do with it (the work of justification) except to hinder it when we trust in them. The blood of Christ secures our justification and redemption; faith in Christ takes hold of it. We are justified not by our works but by His work.” R.A. Torrey

G. “To be Justified is more than being forgiven. Forgiveness is negative (with positive effect), the washing away of sin. Justification is positive, it is the counting (reckoning) of perfect righteousness to someone. Jesus Christ is so united with the believer that God reckons our sins to him. The believer is so united to Christ that God reckons his righteousness to us. God sees us in Him and reckons us as righteous as He is.” R.A. Torrey

1. The important thing is nearness to Christ. So near that you are in Him and he in you

<i>Near so very near to God, Nearer I cannot be. For in the person of His Son I'm just as near as He</i>	<i>Dear, so very dear to God, Dearer I cannot be; For in the person of His Son I'm just as dear as He.</i>
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H. This is the good news of the Gospel. Repent and place your faith in the Savior. We deserve none of this. But God is willing to give it to all who will turn from trusting in themselves and transfer that trust in Him.

1. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Jesus said it is finished!

We can't add to that and to try to would be blasphemous.

Amen!