

“Balancing Grace and Good Works,” *Ephesians 2:1-10*, page 1142

Introduction:

1. Two years ago Charlene gave me a very nice drill press for Christmas.
 - A. Free standing
 - B. Ability to accomplish several tasks
2. The drill press was a gift and presented to me; all I had to do was accept the gift.
3. The drill press remained in the box for two years.
 - A. It took up room on the garage floor.
 - B. It accomplished nothing.
4. Last month I finally took the drill press out of the box.
 - A. I managed to assemble it.
 - B. Now I am beginning to use it to accomplish some very positive things.
5. This illustration can be used to describe salvation by grace and good works that should follow.

I. Salvation is a free gift, generated by God’s grace, *verse 8*.

- A. Grace is defined as:
 1. “Divine love and protection bestowed freely on people.”
 2. “The state of being protected or sanctified by the favor of God.”
- B. The apostle Paul makes it very clear that salvation is a free gift given to us because of God’s love and grace.
 1. We cannot earn this gift.
 2. We cannot afford to pay for this gift.
 3. We are not worthy of this gift.
- C. He looks beyond our:
 1. Weaknesses.
 2. Our negative baggage.
 3. Our failures.
 4. Even our rejection of His love.
- D. In spite of these negative things, God loves us with a perfect/unconditional love, and He offers us the gift of salvation.
- E. All that is required of us is to accept His gift of salvation. *Romans 10:8-10*, page 1107.
 1. Confess Jesus as Lord.
 2. Simply believe in our heart that God raised Him from the grave.

II. Salvation produces good works, *verse 10*.

- A. Salvation and faith = good works!
- B. Salvation is a gift to us, but a strong faith and Christian maturity is a result of hard work.
- C. James gives us solid counsel concerning faith and good works. *James 2:14-26*, page 1183.
 - 1. James raises the question: Can faith without works save him?
 - 2. “Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself,” *verse 17*.
 - 3. James makes a very interesting comment concerning body, spirit, faith, and works, *verse 26*.
- D. Jesus also gives us some very direct commands concerning “works.”
 - 1. *Matthew 5:16*: “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”
 - 2. *John 9:4*: “*I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*”
 - 3. *I Corinthians 3:15*: “*If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*”
- E. Jesus has left the work to His disciples:
 - 1. It’s up to us to be His witnesses.
 - 2. It’s up to us to show the world God loves them.
 - 3. It’s up to us to be the salt and light in this dark world.
 - 4. It’s up to us to care for the needy.
- F. Our good works provide proof of our faith and lay up treasures for us in heaven. *Matthew 6:19-21*, page 936.

Conclusion:

- 1. The bottom line is this:
 - A. Salvation is a gift from God because of His grace.
 - B. Faith will produce good works.
- 2. Our good works:
 - A. Result in being obedient disciples.
 - B. Provide proof of our faith.
 - C. Become the visible Bible non-believers read.
 - D. Help us grow and mature in our Christian life.
- 3. Grace and good works go together in the believer’s life.
- 4. Thank God for His grace and strive to be a willing worker for Jesus!
- 5. Jesus has specific good works for each of us to complete here on earth.