

This We Believe - Salvation is Free

July 18 & 19, 2009

God said, "You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."

Leviticus chapter 19 verse 2 (94)

Jesus said, "There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent." Luke chapter 24 verse 47 (808)

Why do we need forgiveness?

A man loaned money to two people -- 500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debt.

Luke chapter 7 verses 41 & 42 (788)

We all need forgiveness because we're all in debt!

- *If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves & not living in the truth.*
1 John chapter 1 verse 8 (941)
- *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*
Romans chapter 3 verse 23 (859)
- falling short "of God's glorious standard" means I don't measure up to Jesus

We all need forgiveness because we're all in debt over our heads!

- *For the wages of sin is death.... Romans chapter 6 verse 23 (861)*
- The sin debt that we each owe God is beyond our ability to repay!!

We all need forgiveness because we cannot cancel our own debt!

- *For without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*
Hebrews chapter 9 verse 22 (925)
- *Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people.*
Hebrews chapter 9 verse 28 (925)
- *God is so rich in kindness & grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his son & forgave our sins. Ephesians chapter 1 verse 7 (895)*

What is grace?

- "grace" simply means that I get something for nothing! **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**
- *...through this man Jesus there is forgiveness of your sins. Everyone who believes in him is declared right with God...! Acts chapter 13 verses 38 & 39 (842)*

1. Grace is a free gift!

- *...God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. Romans chapter 5 verse 16 (860)*
- Religion is spelled D-O
- Christianity is spelled D-O-N-E

2. Jesus is the only one who can give grace!

- *But even greater is God's wonderful grace & his gift of forgiveness to many through...Jesus Christ. Romans chapter 5 verse 15 (860)*

- **Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth & the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”** John chapter 14 verse 6 (823)
 - **Jesus gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.** 1 Timothy chapter 2 verse 6 (910)
 - Jesus is the one who paid my admission price so I could enter heaven!
 - Grace is free, but it’s not cheap. It cost Jesus his life.
3. Grace is available to anyone & everyone!
- **Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**
Romans chapter 10 verse 13 (864)
4. Grace lasts forever!
- **The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.** Romans chapter 6 verse 23 (861)
 - **Forever means forever.** Once I’m part of God’s family, I can’t lose my salvation or be thrown out of God’s family
 - **Romans 8** - No condemnation from God, Holy Spirit frees me from sin, Holy Spirit controls my mind, Jesus Christ lives within me, the Holy Spirit lives within me, God’s resurrection power is at work within me, I am adopted into God’s family, God is my “daddy,” I will share in Christ’s inheritance, the Holy Spirit prays for us, God is conforming me to Christ, God will never again condemn me, nothing can separate me from God’s love
 - Also see Ephesians chapter 1 verses 3-14
 - If I do nothing to earn my salvation, how can I do something to lose it??
 - **Always use the clear teachings of the Bible to help you understand the not-so-clear teachings**
5. Grace changes everything!
- **Jesus said, “My purpose is to give a rich & satisfying life.”**
John chapter 10 verse 10 (819)
 - **God loved us & chose us in Christ to be holy & without fault in his eyes!**
Ephesians chapter 1 verse 4 (895)
6. I can have this new & eternal life simply by accepting it!
- **God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.** Ephesians chapter 2 verses 8 & 9 (896)
 - Salvation is not based on my performance...it’s based on God’s promise!
 - Salvation is not based on my goodness...it’s based on God’s grace!
 - I get to heaven not because of what I do...but because of what Jesus has already done!

Next Week: Jesus is God

This talk is based on the “Fresh Start” curriculum from Saddleback Church in California where Rick Warren is the lead pastor. Rick is the best-selling author of The Purpose Driven Life & Saddleback is a dynamic church that God is working through to change tens of thousands of lives around the world. Visit them at www.Saddleback.com