

# Online Grace Bible School

With  
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**Online Grace Bible School  
Phase 2  
Salvation is Forever**

**1) Which Part of 'Eternal Life' Don't You Understand? Rom.8:31-39**

Everyone who trusts in Christ for salvation is eternally secure because of:

**1) The Father.** Rom.8:14-16. When we get saved we get born into the family of God. This means:

- ✓ We are out of the courtroom and into the family. God is our Father, not our judge. As a believer you will never be judged for your sins. God settled that, even knowing that you would sin! We have not received a spirit of slavery again to fear, but of adoption.
- ✓ Once a son, always a son. We have been born again. We cannot be unborn. We are not born again and again and... We can be bad sons, prodigal sons, but not unborn sons.
- ✓ When we get saved, God's supreme work in us is to get us to trust Him. Could you ever put your total trust in a Father who may unadopt you?
- ✓ Rom.8:29-30. God's salvation is a purposeful salvation. It is tied to an eternal plan. Justification was not our first encounter with God; it was our fourth in the five-link plan of eternal redemption. Those who are justified are glorified.
- ✓ None of these 5 things involve anything we do, but what He has done. The fulfillment of God's great purpose does not rest ultimately with us. See Rom.4:16. We are in His grip of grace!

Rom.8:31-32. Objections: What do **you** say to these things?

- ✓ 'But there's a limit to God's patience and forgiveness.' What is that limit? At what point do you lose it? Where sin abounds...Sin will never outdo grace.
- ✓ 'I couldn't teach people eternal security; look what they will do with it.' As a Bible teacher I can't choose what I teach on the basis of what others might do with it.

What does **Paul** say to these things?

- ✓ God is for us.
- ✓ 8:33. *'Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?'*
- ✓ 8:35-39. Our salvation is not based upon our love to Him, but His unconditional love to us.

**2) The Son.**

- ✓ We have been given to Christ as a gift from God for safe-keeping. (Jn.6:37).
- ✓ He is our High Priest. Heb.7:25. Jesus intercedes for us. See Rom.8:34.
- ✓ *'...they shall never perish...no one will snatch them out of my hand...no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand'* (Jn.10:28-30).
- ✓ *'...your life is hidden with Christ in God'* (Col.3:3).
- ✓ 5:9&10. Did God love you more when you were a sinner than now you are a son?

**3) The Holy Spirit.** Eph.1:13&14. Every Christian has been sealed with the Holy Spirit:

- ✓ The Holy Spirit is a pledge of God's intentions concerning us. Like an engagement ring. *'Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit'* (2 Cor.1:21-22).
- ✓ Every Christian has the Holy Spirit as a seal. We seal something is to protect it and make it secure. E.g. the tomb of Jesus, letters, etc.
- ✓ A seal is a proof of ownership. God has put a seal on you to prove you are His. How long will the seal last? *'And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption'* (Eph.4:30). Until the day of redemption, i.e. the day of Christ's return. See Rom.8:23. Nothing we can do can remove that seal.

## 2) Professors and Possessors

- ✓ What happens to those who have received Christ and then fall away?
- ✓ Parable of tares. The seed that fell among stony ground had no root.
- ✓ Christ is the root of true Christianity. *'As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith'* (Col.2:6&7).
- ✓ There is a difference between an awakened soul and a regenerated soul. Both are works of the Holy Spirit. An awakened soul is aware of its sinful state and need of Christ. Regeneration takes place only when one has truly trusted in Christ.
- ✓ Not all who profess salvation possess salvation. *'They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him'* (Tit.1:16). *'...having a form of godliness, but denying its power'* (2 Tim.3:5).
- ✓ Tares are counterfeit Christians. False brethren.

What about **Judas**? I believe he never was saved.

- ✓ John 6:64. Many followed Him just for material bread. These disciples turned away from Jesus and did not continue to follow Him. Jesus uses these very people as an example of another person, Judas Iscariot, who never was a believer.
- ✓ 6:68-69. Peter spoke up for the Twelve, saying, 'Lord, we are not like this crowd of people who You knew would not believe on you when they began to follow you; we are different.'
- ✓ 6:70&71. Jesus could not allow Peter's statement to go unchallenged, because it was wrong. He says Judas was not a believer; he was Satan (*diabolos*), i.e. totally one with Satan.
- ✓ Matthew had a problem with money. Simon was a zealot. Peter was a sinful man. But as Christ was revealed to them they put their trust in Him and were transformed. Judas didn't.
- ✓ Jn.12:3-6. Is this when Judas finally rejected Christ? Judas didn't have anything to say until he complained about money "he was a thief" (v.6). He was a covetous man, yet was never suspected by the others. A professional hypocrite. He was with Jesus for 3 years and when Jesus announced that one would betray him, no one suspected Judas.
- ✓ John 13:10-11. 13:18-21. (compare Jn.1:11&12). Judas received the Son of God!
- ✓ John 17:6, 12. The word 'perdition' means eternal death. Judas would suffer eternal ruin because he was never truly saved. Antichrist is the only other person given this name. *'Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition'* (2 Thess. 2:3).
- ✓ Matt.27:3. Did Judas repent? No. He repented to himself, not to God see 2 Cor.7:10.
- ✓ Was he saved? No. Jesus called him a devil, a thief, a betrayer, the son of perdition. See Matthew 26:24. If he was saved why did Jesus say it would be better for him not to be born?
- ✓ It is possible to be in close association with the true church, and yet not be in Christ. 1 Jn.2:19. *'...he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry...'* (Acts 1:17). People can have a ministry and a position, but no spiritual connection to Christ.
- ✓ Jesus reached out to Him in many ways. He warned him, taught him about the dangers of money and covetousness, loved him, washed his feet, handed the sop to him, even called him friend, right up to the end. Jn.12:3-6. But his mind was already made up.
- ✓ He was the ultimate hypocrite – the person who can hide in the presence of Jesus and be filled with Satan.
- ✓ We are not qualified to separate the wheat from the tares.
- ✓ But: 1) **You** can tell whether you are saved. (John 20:31); 2) And **God** knows. *'The solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His"'* (2 Tim.2:19).

### 3) Gift and Reward

There are many conditional Bible passages which suggest that if we do not fulfill the conditions we will lose our salvation. E.g. Mt.5:8; Heb.12:14; Rev.3:21; Mt.6:15;18:22-35; 25:14-30; Mt.7:13&14. These do not cancel out the clear teaching of irreversible justification by faith in epistles to Romans and Galatians. We must rightly divide the Word of truth. 1) OC vs NC. E.g. Priesthood Ex.19:5-6 with 1 Pet.2:9; sons of God Lk.6:35 with Gal.3:26; forgiveness Mt.6:15 with Eph.4:32.

But there are conditional passages relating to our reward in the next life, not the gift of salvation.

- ✓ Salvation is a gift – Jn.3:16; Rom.6:23; Jn.10:28; we are justified *freely* by His grace.
- ✓ But our works will be rewarded. The NC speaks much about a reward, which can be lost.
- ✓ The gift is given in response to *faith*; the reward is given in response to *faithfulness*.
- ✓ God's sets the gift before the *unsaved*; He sets the reward before the *saved*. 1 Cor.9:24-27.
- ✓ The gift is *eternal life*; the reward is *reigning with Christ* in His coming kingdom.
- ✓ God is going to glorify His Son and He wants to glorify us with Him!
- ✓ Peter had a foretaste of this at the transfiguration. (see also 1 Pet.5:1).
- ✓ John saw it twice. He fell down as one dead. **1 Jn.3:2**.
- ✓ The prophets saw it: e.g. Dan.12:3.
- ✓ Jesus spoke of it: *'Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father'* (Matt.13:43)
- ✓ Paul saw it. It shall be revealed in us. **Rom.8:18**; 2 Cor.4:17; Col.3:4; 2 Thes.2:13&14). This is our hope.

Jesus spoke often about His kingdom. It is a prominent theme in the Sermon on the Mount:

- ✓ He begins by saying you must be saved to enter the kingdom of heaven (5:3). See also Jn.3:6
- ✓ He said there will be degrees of reward in the kingdom (5:11&12). See Lk.16:11-12; Rev.3:21
- ✓ He lists some of the things which will be rewarded in the kingdom (5:46; 6:1,2,4,5,6,16&18)
- ✓ He exhorts us to lay up for ourselves treasure in the kingdom of heaven (6:19-20)
- ✓ The kingdom is not salvation. You have salvation. We need to have a kingdom mentality
- ✓ The disciples understood that the reward involved reigning with Christ, Mk.10:35-45
- ✓ The saints at Corinth we aware that we are destined to reign with Christ, 1 Cor.6:2&3
- ✓ Yet Paul told them that his crown was not certain until he completed his race, 1 Cor.9:24-27
- ✓ As sons of God we are also heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, Rom.8:17
- ✓ Salvation is dependent on faith; inheritance is dependent upon faithfulness, Col.3:16-25

Every New Testament truth is illustrated in the Old Testament. Heb.12:23. In Scripture there is a distinction between a son and a firstborn son. The firstborn son had the right of control over the family under the father (Ex.4:22&23). Firstborn status entitles a person to a position of rulership. But it can be forfeited.

Examples:

- ✓ Reuben was Jacob's firstborn, but forfeited his inheritance by his fornication (1 Chron.5:1)
- ✓ Esau received his birthright privileges by birth but traded them for one meal (Heb.12:14-17)
- ✓ The context of this chapter is receiving or losing the kingdom, not salvation (12:28)
- ✓ The lesson is: once a son always a son. Once a firstborn son, not necessarily always a firstborn son. Eternal life is forever; inheritance can be lost
- ✓ Gal.5:19-21; 1 Cor.6:8-11; Eph.5:5. If we don't understand these verses we will make them refer to our salvation.
- ✓ The crown is our right to reign. It has nothing to do with eternal life.
- ✓ God wants to reward everyone. All is by grace.

#### 4) The Judgment Seat Of Christ

'We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, whether good or bad' (2 Cor.5:10). This is a trial of works for the purpose of reward.

Paul spoke of 3 types of people:

1. 1 Cor.2:14. The natural person is alive naturally and lives by natural means only. He is dead spiritually and disconnected from the life of God. He doesn't even understand the things of God.
2. 1 Cor.2:15. The spiritual person is someone who is alive spiritually. He has been born again through faith in Jesus Christ. He is positioned in Christ and lives by the resources of His grace.
3. 1 Cor.3:1-4. The carnal person is someone who is born again, but lives like the natural person. He has access to the same spiritual resources as the spiritual Christian but lives according to the flesh.

- ✓ Paul wrote to the Galatians because they were viewed their salvation as a reward for works.
- ✓ He wrote to the Corinthians because they were living as if there were no prize to be won.

Read 1 Cor.3:11-15

- ✓ The first danger is building on wrong foundations. Foundations determine the difference between heaven and hell. What we build determines whether we receive a reward and not.
- ✓ The second danger is building the superstructure with wrong materials. Gold, silver, precious stones = life in the Spirit. Wood, hay, straw = fleshly living.
- ✓ The fire will test our works. Fire does two things – gives heat and provides light.
- ✓ 'The Day will declare it.' The Bible speaks of 3 days: man's day – 1 Cor.4:3; the day of Christ – 2 Thes.2:2; the Day of the Lord – Judgment Day for mankind outside of Christ.
- ✓ 3:14&15. Heat burns what is combustible. Light reveals what is left afterwards. If what we are building is burned we will suffer loss, not of salvation but of reward.

Example One. 1 Cor. 5:1-5. This man was fornicating with his father's wife. If he died in this state he would have gone into eternity with no prospect of eternal reward. Yet, he would be saved.

Example Two. Chapters 8 -10. Paul warns the Christians at Corinth that though they were free to eat meat that had previously been offered to idols, their liberty may: a) Lead others to stumble, or, b) Cause them to be so bold with their liberty that they go back into the temples of idols again. They need to beware that they are not overpowered by the flesh and lose their inheritance. In chapter **10:1-11** he illustrates this point using the example of Israel in the wilderness. Their deliverance from Egypt is a picture of their salvation. They were redeemed by the blood of a lamb, baptized, partook of the bread of life and the living water, etc. Most of them, however, perished in the wilderness without receiving the prize God intended for them. These things happened to them "as examples to us" (**10:6&11**). They never lost their salvation. God did not allow them to go back to Egypt. But they died in the wilderness. They are a picture of carnal Christians who are overcome by the world, the flesh and the Devil.

#### Summary

There is an eternal reward, for those who faithfully run the race set before them. Paul was not certain that he had achieved that prize when he was writing to the Corinthians (1 Cor.9:24-27). But at the end of his lifetime he was confident of his reward: 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing' (2 Tim.4:7&8).

## 5) Keeping His Commandments

**1 Jn.2:3-4.** Some say that only those who keep the 10 commandments are saved. But:

- 1) When the apostles taught the doctrine of salvation they made it clear that it is apart from the law. E.g. Rom.3:20; Gal.2:16. Jesus fulfilled the law on our behalf.
- 2) Paul said those who taught that the law is needed in addition to faith in Christ are accursed.
- 3) The law is a heavy burden. We need to keep free of it and make sure we don't put it on others, Acts 15:10, 24; Gal.5:1.
- 4) In comparison, Christ's yoke is easy. Matt.11:28-30. See 1 Jn.5:3.

So what commandments are referred to here? See 1 Jn.3:22-24. There are two commandments:

### 1) That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ

- ✓ The gospel is not an invitation, but a command to stop trusting in our own efforts and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thes.1:7-8). The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin. Sin is not breaking the 10 commandments, but not believing in Christ.
- ✓ How did Jesus and the apostles answer the question, 'What shall we do to be saved?' See Jn.6:29; Acts.2:38; 16:30&31. (See Rom.16:25-26.) They never called for obedience to the 10 commandments. They called for obedience to the gospel (Acts 6:7).
- ✓ The new covenant would does not replace one set of rules with another. It calls us to obedience to the faith. *'Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name...'* (Rom.1:5).

### 2) That we should love one another

- ✓ 1 Jn.2:3-5. John is not saying, 'You get saved by keeping the commandment to love one another.' It's the other way round. When we obey the gospel we are born again and become partakers of the divine nature. God is Love. Therefore, believing the gospel will result in us loving our brothers and sisters. Faith works through love.
- ✓ The Christian life begins with faith and is brought to completion in love. 2 Pet.1:5-7.
- ✓ Religion will always try to work from the outside in. You behave to become. God works from the inside out. John is saying if you do not obey the commandment to believe in Him then the truth is really not in you and love will not flow out of you. 'You must be born again.'
- ✓ Under the old covenant you are given a set of rules. Under the new covenant God writes His laws on the inside. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, etc.
- ✓ 2:7. The old commandment is not the 10 commandments. It is singular. See 3:11. It is the command Jesus gave, which is not new (about 60 years old). But it is new in that it is the distinguishing mark of the new covenant. That love comes from Him, not you. 1 John 4:19. To the degree that we understand and experience His love, to that degree we are empowered to love. 1 Jn.3:10,14; Jn.13:35. Matt.5:43-44.
- ✓ Jesus summarized the law with this word. Paul calls this the law of Christ (Gal.6:2). Grace believers are not lawless. They have a higher law than the 10 commandments.
- ✓ 1 Jn.3:11. This is the message. Jesus: *'This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you'* (Jn.15:12). Paul: *'All the law is fulfilled in one word, even this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"'* (Gal.5:14). *'If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well'* (Jas.2:8). It's not that there are no other messages in God's Word, but if they become central then they are error.
- ✓ 1 Cor.13. Let everything be tested by this.
- ✓ The cycle of love: God is love (4:7&8); God's love was manifested (4:9&10); God's love is perfected in us (4:11,12&17). In Christ the only thing that counts is faith working by love Gal.5:6.

## 6) What Makes Jesus Sick?

- ✓ Rev.3:15&16. The condemnation given by Jesus paraphrased, is: 'You make me sick!'
- ✓ What prompted Him to say this to a church? And what does it mean?
- ✓ A common interpretation is that if we're not on fire for God we will lose our salvation.
- ✓ This would mean that God accepts us or rejects us on the level of our zeal.
- ✓ But Jesus said that we're better to be cold than lukewarm. Either hot or cold is good.

In order to understand it properly we need to consider the following:

### 1) The Background to the City

Laodicea was a very wealthy city. Three things attributed to its wealth:

- ✓ It was a banking centre and one of the wealthiest cities in the world
- ✓ It manufactured fabrics, woolen clothing and carpets from the wool of local sheep
- ✓ It had a famous medical school which exported to the world special eye and ear ointment

### 2) The Background to the Church

- ✓ It was the only church of the seven that received no word of praise.
- ✓ Colosse and Laodicea were neighbours, Col.4:13,15-16. The message to Colosse is found in Col.2:1-3. It is a strong warning against flesh-based Christianity.
- ✓ Authentic Christianity is based on union and communion with Christ and holds fast to the Head. One is organic and the other is pragmatic (Col.2:19).

### 3) The Letter To Laodicea

- ✓ 3:15&16. The problem with this church was not apathy. They were not slack; they were busy. But it was their works that made Jesus want to vomit. Their works were lukewarm. The problem was not that they were not doing deeds. It was *how* they were doing them.
- ✓ 'Hot' is when you are on fire for God with God's fire. '*...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works*' (Titus 2:14). This is Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered fire.
- ✓ 'Cold' is when we do nothing until God's fire burns, otherwise it would be in the flesh.
- ✓ Lukewarmness is a mixture of hot and cold. The result is a form of godliness without the power of God. See Rom.10:2; Phil.3:6; Gal.1:14; 4:17&18; Matt.7:21-23.

**3:17.** This self-confident church was popular, pragmatic, prosperous and proud – but powerless.

- ✓ You say: '*I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.*' Their estimation of their wealth was not based upon their riches in Christ, but their own resources.
- ✓ I say: '*You are **wretched.***' This word is only used one other place - Rom.7:24. The difference between Paul was cold; the Laodiceans were lukewarm.
- ✓ 'You are **miserable.**' This word was only used in one other place, **1 Cor.15:19**. To be pitied!
- ✓ 'You are **poor.**' Smyrna was poor, yet rich; Laodicea was rich, though poor.
- ✓ 'You are **blind.**' You can't see.
- ✓ 'You are **naked.**' They were dressed for success, yet naked.

**3:18&19.** Jesus counsels them buy 'from Me.' In Him are all the treasures of wisdom, etc...Col.2:3):

- a) Gold tried in the fire; b) White garments; c) Eye salve.

**3:20.** '*To the angel of the church of the Laodiceans,*' (and in Col.4:16) it was not His but theirs. Not governed by the Head, but the body. In spite of all its activity Christ was on the outside!