

BLOCK NINE

EPHESIANS

2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.







There is only One God – Jehovah, the God of the Bible.



God created the heavens and the earth and made man like Him.



Adam and Eve sinned through their disobedience and were separated from each other, from God, from God's purpose and provision on planet earth, and from eternal life.

Sin brought birth to death.

Sin claimed the souls of all man and demanded sacrifice.

- The blood of animals could only temporarily cover man's sin.
- The blood of man was impure and unacceptable.
- The sin debt required the perfect sacrifice of a sinless man.

UFESTARE Jesus, Son of God and Son of man, willingly offered Himself.

- Not because He had to but because He wanted to (love).
- In death He destroyed him who had the power over death.
- He triumphed over principalities and the powers of darkness.
- He took the keys of death, hell, and the grave.

Jesus, the promised Messiah, victoriously rose to life on the 3rd day.



LIFESHAPE

God willingly opened a door through Jesus and extended an invitation by grace back into His perfect plan for all mankind.

There is only one way back into God's grace - it is by faith.

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- 1. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." ROMANS 3:23
- 2. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." - **ROMANS 6:23**
- "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." -ROMANS 10:13

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

> **EPHESIANS** 2:8-9

We are saved by the grace of God through faith. Faith is trust in the truth. Without either of which we cannot be saved.

No man can save himself. Salvation is only by God's grace.

Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again."

JOHN *3:7*

Even good men, honest men, sincere men, and even religious leaders must be born again.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS *3:23*

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

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What we deserve because we sin is to be eternally separated from God and His blessings, however, His grace offers us a free gift of eternal life through Christ.

For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

ROMANS 10:13

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS *10:9*

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

ROMANS *10:10*

God deals with man's heart to inspire trust in the truth.

Man either accepts or rejects that trust.

If a man believes, he then becomes a candidate for salvation.

Application for salvation is made by our confession as we call upon the name of the Lord and submit our lives to Him. Only believing in God or Jesus is not enough, we must also receive the grace of His salvation provided by the blood of His Son. This demands an act of our will to choose Jesus as our Lord and profess our trust in this truth.



COMMENTARY

There was a man who lived in the day of Jesus who was a member of the religious group known as the Pharisees. His name was Nicodemus and he was a prominent and well known religious leader of the Jews. This man, not wanting to stir up controversy or cause unnecessary problems for himself, came to Jesus during the nighttime, after dark when no one else could recognize him. Nicodemus had a genuine respect for Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Jesus answered Nicodemus and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus replied to Jesus in earnest, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Herein Jesus is clearly referring to the element of water baptism as an outward sign which is meaningless without an inward conviction. More than having or producing an appearance of religious piety, one must be born of the Spirit. More than merely joining the Church or a religious group of the day, in order to even see the Kingdom of God, much more to expect to enter into that Kingdom, one must truly be converted in heart and soul.

If the only approach we make to God is to clean the outside of our life, or make an outward commitment, we fall short of what it takes to enter a spiritual Kingdom. For this reason Jesus concluded: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not



marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" (John 3:1-7) We must not die in sin but rather die to sin in Christ.

The effects of sin passed from Adam upon all mankind thereafter, even good men. Salvation comes only with a true conversion of the soul. Salvation is offered by grace, through faith in Jesus, and not by works.

NOTES

