What does “salvation by grace through faith” have to do with baptism?

**intro:**
- Eph. 2:1-10 saved by grace through faith, not of yourselves, gift of God

- false doctrine: some people pull Eph. 2:8-9 out of context — not have to be baptized to be saved

- truth re. baptism: we are saved when we are baptized
  - Acts 19:4-5 Paul taught the Ephesians that they had to be baptized; therefore baptism necessary to be saved by grace through faith
  - Acts 22:16 Lord, through Ananias, commanded Paul to be baptized — he had to be baptized to be saved by grace through faith

- How do we reconcile the fact that we must be baptized to be saved, and the fact that we are saved by grace through faith?
  - the Bible doesn’t contradict itself
  - if a Scripture contradicts our interpretation of another Scripture, our interpretation cannot be correct
    - e.g., if some Scriptures tells us that baptism is necessary, we cannot conclude from Eph. 2:8-9 that baptism is not necessary

- this lesson: What does "salvation by grace through faith" have to do with baptism?

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What is “grace” in Eph. 2:8?
- **Note:** "grace" is used in a number of ways - we only consider it use in Eph. 2:8 in this lesson.

- **Grace:** "the friendly disposition (attitude of mind) from which the kindly act proceeds (attitude resulting in the act, salvation Eph. 2:8)" (Vine's)

- **cf. mercy:** "is the outward manifestation (the outworking of a gracious attitude) of pity" (Vine's)
  - **Eph. 2:4** God, rich in mercy (outworking of grace), because of His great love (the motive for God's merciful grace)

- **illus.:**
  - #1 Nolan came up to get a $
  - #2 experiment, Thomasville, Dawn (preschool) at home, told her I would give her a dollar if she bent down and picked it up
    - she agreed
    - I dropped it on the floor
    - she bent down and picked it up
    - “Did I give you the dollar or did you earn it?” “Gave it to me”

- **God’s grace regarding salvation:**
  - **Eph. 2:5-6** when dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ, sit in heavenly places
    - **God’s grace = everything** necessary to make this happen
    - **note:** we are saved by grace through faith when we are made alive with Christ - raised up with Him
      — !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

  - **summary:**
    - God's attitude (determination) of mind to save us is His **grace**.
    - God’s enacting and follow through of His plan to save us is His **mercy**.
    - The motive for God being gracious and merciful toward us is **love** - He loves us (cf. Jn. 3:16).
    - We are **saved by grace** through faith **at the moment we are made alive** with Christ.

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What does “through faith” mean (Eph. 2:8-9)? — saved by grace through faith
- **“through” denotes instrumentality** - the instrument whereby we are saved by grace
  - Greek word *dia* — it is through faith that we access God’s grace

- **Grace is God’s part — faith is our part.**

- **“faith” is the state of believing — fully convinced in God and His word, to the point of obedience**
  - **Heb. 11:1-2, 6** convinced and convicted, gain approval, without which it’s imp. to please God
  - **Heb. 11:7** Noah believed and obeyed
  - **Heb. 11:8** Abraham believed and obeyed — etc., all examples of faith this chapter
  - **Heb. 5:9** we believe and obey Jesus / saved
    - **saved:** by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9), obeying Jesus (Heb. 5:9)

  - **summary:** to be saved by grace through faith, we must obey Jesus (Heb. 5:9)
When are we saved by grace?
- We are saved when we obey Jesus (Heb. 5:9)! — above
  - more specifically, see below

- We are saved by grace when we are made alive together with Christ - raised up with Him.
  - Eph. 2:4-5 made alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — above!!!!!!
  - A person who has been made alive together with Christ, has been saved by grace.

- When are we made alive together with Christ? — when we are baptized
  - Col. 2:9-13 in Him made complete / buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him / through faith in the working of God / made you alive together with Him / forgiven us all our transgressions

- Therefore, we are saved by grace when we are baptized.
  - e.g., Ephesians, saved by grace when they were baptized
    - Acts 19:4-5 (Paul taught the Ephesians that they had to be baptized) they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
    - Eph. 2:4-5 by grace you (Ephesians / Christians — baptized) have been saved

- What is baptism?
  - "Baptize" is a transliteration of the Greek word *baptizo*, meaning to dip, to immerse.
  - Baptism is a process of immersion in water and emergence out of water.
    - Acts 8:38-39a (review history) had to be water that both men could get into, not just a cup full which they would have had on the chariot
    - both went into the water, both came out of the water — had to be immersed

- History:
  - Immersion (i.e., baptism) was exclusively practiced until the Third Century when the doctrines of men began to substitute sprinkling and pouring for baptism. (Sprinkling and pouring are not baptism.)
  - Affusion (pouring water) began to be substituted for baptism in A.D. 251. After that time, sprinkling and pouring were erroneously practiced and called "sick" or "clinical" baptism because it was administered to people who were sick.
  - In A.D. 1331, at the Council of Ravenna, sprinkling was officially recognized as a substitute for immersion by the Roman Catholic Church.
Why are we saved by grace, when we are baptized?
- Eph. 2:4-7 in Christ (vs. 6, 7) — God’s grace given to those in Christ (vs. 7)
  - if we are in Christ, we are saved by grace
  - if we are not in Christ, we are not saved by grace

- We are saved by grace through faith when we are baptized because we enter into Christ (united with Him) when we are baptized — the exact same time we are made alive together with Christ (rf. above)
  - Rom. 6:3-5 baptized into Christ (vs. 3), walk in newness of life (cf. made alive together with Him) (vs. 4), united with Him (vs. 5)

- into: preposition denoting movement and contact
  - before baptized, not in contact with Christ - no relationship
  - after baptized, in contact with Christ (in Christ) - have a relationship
- illus.: walked into the church building
  - mode of getting into the building was walking — if not walk, not in the building
    - if I tried to pray myself into the building, still be sitting in the car
  - mode of getting into Christ in baptism — if not baptized, not in Christ
    - if tried to pray myself into Christ, still be in sin

- Conclusion:
  - We don’t have to understand all the complex details of salvation which Paul explains to mature Christians in God’s word, but we must obey — baptized, enter into Christ, saved.
If we are saved by grace when we are baptized, does that mean we are saved by works? — no

- Eph. 2:8-9  we are saved by grace through faith

- We are saved by grace through faith, which mean that we are saved because be believe and obey God.
  - illus.: Noah was saved by grace through faith
    - saved by grace
      - Gen. 6:8  Noah saved by grace (God’s favor)
    - save by faith
      - Heb. 11:7  Noah, became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith
    - obedience required
      - Gen. 6:22  Noah obeyed in everything
  - Noah saved by grace through faith, because he obeyed — not saved by works
    - obedience does not negate God’s grace — rather, we must obey to contact His grace

  - illus.: today, saved by grace through faith
    - if God tells us:
      - if God tells us to build an ark to be saved and we build as ark, we are saved by grace through faith
      - if God tells us to pray to be saved and we pray, we are saved by grace through faith
      - if God tells us to howl at the moon to be saved and we howl, we are saved by grace through faith
      - if God tells us to be baptized and we are baptized, we are saved by grace through faith
    - if God doesn’t tell us and we do it:
      - if God doesn’t tells us to build an ark to be saved and we build as ark, we are lost - tried to work
      - if God doesn’t tells us to pray to be saved and we pray, we are lost - tried to work
      - if God doesn’t tells us to howl at the moon to be saved and we howl, we are lost - tried to work
      - if God doesn’t tells us to be baptized and we are baptized, we are lost - tried to work
    - application: we are saved by grace through faith when we do whatever God commands us to be saved
      - we are saved by grace through faith when we are baptized, because that’s what God commands it
        - Acts 2:38  Repent, each of you be baptized / for the forgiveness of sins
        - Acts 22:16  baptized, wash away sins
        - 1 Pet. 3:21  baptism now saves you, appeal to God
    - if we do anything else (build an ark, pray, howl at the moon) we are lost in sin
      - illus.: Israel sinned by speaking against God and Moses, God punished them by sending serpents to kill them, God commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole, those who obey and look at it are saved, everyone else is lost (Num. 21)
        - those who looked at the serpent (obeyed) were saved — grace (gift) / faith (believe, obey)
        - note: would have required much work - travel, take the sick, look
        - anyone who tried to do something else (pray, meditate), died

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Conclusion / Inv.

- **We are saved by grace through faith when we obey Jesus.**
  - Heb. 5:9 Jesus, author of eternal salvation, to all who obey Him
  - Eph. 2:8-9 saved by grace through faith, gift of God, not as a result of works

- If we try to be saved any other way, we are trying to be saved by works - lost in sin.

- **Simplified conclusion: Trust and Obey**

- **Inv.** What has Jesus commanded?
  - believe, repent, confess Him, baptized, faithful till death

Audio sermon notes: this is an abbreviated outline closely resembling the one I used to present this lesson.

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- • All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.