

The Key Lens Through Which to View All Other Scripture

Ephesians 2:8-10

It is a bold claim indeed to declare that Ephesians 2:8-10 is the key to rightly viewing all other Scripture, and yet, no other passage of the Bible so perfectly captures the essence of Christianity. The Bible indicates that God did many things to save us—the Father sent the Son, the Son died on the cross for our sins, the Son was raised from the dead for our justification, the Spirit lives within us, etc. The Bible indicates that we must do many to be saved—have faith, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, etc. Sometimes it can be confusing. Which is it? How can various passages which sometimes point to different things be reconciled? The answer is by viewing all other passages through the lens of Ephesians 2:8-10. Only God's grace saves us. Grace is anything that God does for us; it is His unmerited gift toward us. Faith is our appropriate response to that grace.

Topic: Read and consider the following passages and what those passages indicate saves us.

- John 3:16-17; Acts 16:31—Believe in Jesus
- Romans 10:9—Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead
- Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13—Call on the Lord
- Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2—The Gospel
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13—Sanctification through the Holy Spirit
- 1 Timothy 4:16—Persevering in life and doctrine
- Titus 3:5—His mercy, washing through the Holy Spirit
- Hebrews 7:25—Draw near
- Mark 16:16 ; Acts 2:37-38; 1 Peter 3:21—Baptism
- James 2:14-26—Works
- Ephesians 2:5; 2:8; Titus 2:11—Grace of God

The above passages are but a few examples of the salvation language of the New Testament.

-Does Ephesians 2:8-10 help reconcile these various Scriptures? Do you agree that Ephesians 2:8-10 can serve as guiding lens through which to view the rest of the Bible?

It is easy for legalism—the idea that we are saved by our adherence to the law—and for pride to creep into our lives as we emphasize the good works we are to do.

-How can Ephesians 2:9-10 tamp down legalism and pride?

Association: The problem was that we once walked in our transgressions and sins.

-What sorts of sins once held the greatest sway on your life?

As God's workmanship, we are created to do good works which He prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. This connects with His calling.

-What are the good works God has prepared for you to do? Be more precise and less general.

-What roles do you have in the Kingdom, the church, society, at home?

Guidance: Encourage one another to memorize Ephesians 2:8-10.

-Are you gifted at memorization of Scripture? Of other things? Offer tips and techniques for memorization that have helped you. Pray with and for one another.