

## **Scripture Reference: Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Date: September 1, 2013**

Title: "Salvation; a Gift from God that Cannot be Earned"

Focus: Humanity is dependent upon God for Salvation (Biblical World View Series 6 of 10)

1. Triangulation is the using any two points to determine the location of a third.

2. The miracle of redemption is a triangulation. It is arrived at on the basis of two other points. It is a state that results from our response to God's initiative.

### **2:8a; "By grace are you saved through faith..."**

People need salvation.

Because they are sinners.

Because the judgment of sin separates them from God.

Because humanity is woefully unable to pay the price for sins committed and keep himself from continuing to sin.

Humankind needs to be saved.

This only happens at the intersection of *grace* and *faith*.

**2:8b; "...and *that* not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;"**

What does "*that*" refer to?

"*That*" is a singular demonstrative pronoun. Its function is to point to something.

There are three valid options:

It is *either* highlighting "*grace*," "*faith*," or "*saved*." It does not refer to all three. Being a singular pronoun, it is pointing to only one item.

Which One:

**"Grace"**

This is God's presence. Apart from God sending His Son, without Jesus coming in Human form and submitting Himself to The Father, there would be no offering.

God chose to interject Himself in order to make possible humanity's redemption. This is grace and it would not be there were it not for God's presence in the situation.

God's Grace is a gift.

**"Faith"**

This is our response to His presence. Will we, or will we not, trust God and His gift of grace?

Since we are capable of responding, some would not see faith as a gift.

## **"Saved"**

This is the completed act of redemption; it is the third point of the triangle. It is the result of humanity's response to God's grace.

It is salvation "*that,*" is the "*gift of God.*"

God gifted humanity with His presence in salvation.

God created man with the capacity to trust and believe, and then touched His heart that might respond to His offer. (John 6:44)

God is wholly responsible for salvation, His grace, our ability to respond, the privilege of entering into a relationship with Him, salvation is His gift

## **2:9; "not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."**

Salvation is realized in only one way, by a person's response to the extension of God's grace.

It cannot be earned. A person is incapable of working for God's grace.

It is impossible to believe hard enough in order for God to let you in.

If that were the case, salvation would be God's grace responding to your actions.

In that case a person could boast.

**Closing:**

1. Are we willing to set aside our confidence in ourselves in order to place confidence in Him?

2. This is what we observe in the Lord's Supper. By taking the Bread and the Grape Juice, we confess (agree with) God that we need Him in order to enter into a relationship with Him.

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