

## If Saved By Grace Alone

*John Isaac Edwards*

Some teach that man is saved from his sins by the grace of God alone, without doing anything. If such be true:

1) ***Why Was Noah Commanded To Make An Ark?*** Noah was saved by God’s grace. “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8). Yet, he was commanded, “Make thee an ark of gopher wood...” (Gen. 6:14). This required him to do something! Would Noah have been saved without making the ark? Genesis 6:22 records, “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”

2) ***Why The Exhortation To Cleave Unto The Lord?*** The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch, “Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord” (Acts 11:23). Why send Barnabas, if saved by grace alone? No need to exhort men and women to cleave unto the Lord, if saved without doing anything!

3) ***Why Persuade Folks To Continue In The Grace Of God?*** It is said of Paul and Barnabas, “...who, speaking to them persuaded them to continue in the

grace of God” (Acts 13:43). Did persuasion to continue in the grace of God not require them to do something?

4) ***Why Is It Said Of The Corinthians, Hearing Believed, And Were Baptized?*** Were the those in Corinth saved by God’s grace? Absolutely! Paul wrote, “I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:4). If saved by grace alone, why do we read in Acts 18 where Paul “...came to Corinth...” (v. 1), “...and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized” (v. 8)? No need for Paul to go to Corinth, if this teaching be true. Did hearing, believing and being baptized involve them doing some things? If so, then they weren’t saved by grace alone, without doing anything! Why write 1 & 2 Corinthians, if nothing to do? Why did Paul say, “...I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:1-2)? If saved by the gospel, then not saved by grace alone! If they received and stood in the gospel, were

instructed to keep in memory and could believe in vain, then they were not saved without doing anything!

5) ***Why Was Saul Told, “Arise, And Go Into The City, And It Shall Be Told Thee What Thou Must Do”?*** Was Saul saved by grace? He said he was. “But by the grace of God I am what I am...” (1 Cor. 15:10). Yet, he was instructed, “Arise, and go into the city...” (Acts 9:6). Did that not involve him doing something? Would he have been saved if he had just stayed where he was? The fact that Saul would be told what he “...must do” (Acts 9:6) defeats the doctrine that man is saved by grace alone, without doing anything! Why did Ananias tell Saul, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16)? Why do we read where Saul immediately arose and was baptized (Acts 9:18), if saved by grace alone, without doing anything?

6) ***How Could God’s Grace Be Bestowed In Vain?*** Paul wrote, “...his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all...” (1

Cor. 15:10). How could God's grace be bestowed in vain, unless man is required to do something?

7) **Why Beseech People To Receive Not The Grace Of God In Vain?** Please explain 2 Corinthians 6:1 which says, "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." Tell us how one receives the grace of God, and how it is possible to receive God's grace in vain.

8) **Why Were The Galatians Said To Be "Fallen From Grace"?** Why did Paul tell the Galatians, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4)? Please tell how one falls from grace, if saved by grace alone, without doing anything. This doctrine reduces Paul's statement to absurdity!

9) **Why Does The Bible Say The Ephesians Were "Saved By Grace Through Faith"?** Ephesians 2:8 affirms, "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." If saved by grace *alone*, then salvation couldn't be *through* anything else. The word

"alone" suggests without anything else. But, if salvation is *through faith*, then it can't be by grace *alone*. A reading of the conversion of the Ephesians shows how they were saved by grace through faith: heard the word of truth (Eph. 1:13), believed (Eph. 1:13), repented (Acts 20:21), confessed (Acts 19:18), and were baptized (Acts 19:5). Why write the Ephesian letter, if nothing to do?

10) **Will All Men Be Saved?** "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). If saved by grace alone, then all men will be saved, and no man will be lost! Yet, many will be lost (Mt. 7:13-14, 21-23).

11) **How Does One Do Despite Unto The Spirit Of Grace?** Please explain Hebrews 10:29, "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

12) **How Do We Fail Of The Grace Of God?** Hebrews 12:15

warns, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God..." Is looking diligently doing something? How does one fail of God's grace, if saved by grace alone?

13) **How Is The Grace Of God Turned Into Lasciviousness?** Jude spoke of "...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness..." (Jude 4). How does that happen?

14) **Why Go Preach?** Why the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16)? Why did disciples go every where preaching (Acts 8:4)? Why send Philip to the eunuch (Acts 8:26)? Why send Ananias to Saul (Acts 9:11)? Why send for Peter (Acts 10:5)? Why did the church at Antioch send forth men (Acts 13:1-4)? Why charge, "Preach the word..." (2 Tim. 4:2)?

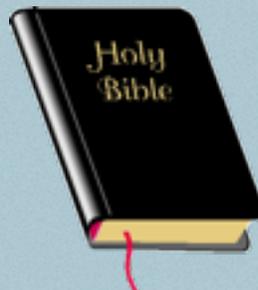
It is true that we are saved by grace (Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:5). But, nowhere does the Bible teach that men and women are saved from their sins by grace alone, without doing anything! If the doctrine of salvation by grace alone is true, then teaching of Scripture is utterly unnecessary and absurd!

**The Terre Haute** **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**  
4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

**Assembling Times:**  
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

**Come be with us!**



**We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.**

**We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.**

**We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.**

**[www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com](http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com)**