

Subject: *Here We Stand: Grace Alone*

Scripture: *Ephesians 2:1-10*

As we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation last week, we are focusing our attention on the five fundamental truths that the Reformers preached about, wrote about, and defended. They paid a high price, but it was a price worth paying and it was a stand worth taking. These truths are hills worth dying on.

Five “Solas” of the Reformation

- *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone)
- *Solus Christus* (Christ Alone)
- *Sola Gratia* (Grace Alone)
- *Sola Fide* (Faith Alone)
- *Soli Deo Gloria* (For the Glory of God Alone)

In this message we are going to look at “Sola Gratia” (Grace Alone) under these headings:

1. Salvation is by the grace of God

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* ⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Grace is at the heart of the gospel, even as Christ is the heart of the gospel.

Galatians 1:3-6 ³ *Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,* ⁴ *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:* ⁵ *To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* ⁶ *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.*

Salvation is by grace from beginning to end, from start to finish. We are saved by grace and kept by grace.

Galatians 1:15 *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace.*

Acts 20:24 *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

Acts 20:32 *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. God's Word is called “the word of His grace.”*

What is the grace of God?

- Grace is the undeserved, unmerited favor of God freely given to guilty, hell-bound sinners

We are saved by grace, not by keeping the Law (10 commandments, God's moral law).

Galatians 2:21 *I do not frustrate (set aside) the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.* If sinners could be saved by keeping the Law, then Jesus died for no reason.

We are saved by grace, not by good works or human effort.

Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*

2. Salvation is by the grace of God alone

Romans 11:5-6⁵ *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.* ⁶ *And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*

Grace and good works are mutually exclusive. If salvation is by grace, it cannot be by works. If it is by works, it cannot be by grace.

We are not saved by a combination of grace plus works. It is not grace plus water baptism. It is not grace plus church membership. It is not grace plus church sacraments or tradition.

1 Corinthians 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.* Paul does not say I am what I am by keeping the Law and living a moral life. He tried that and said his goodness was like a pile of manure (Phil. 3).

3. Salvation is by God's grace in Christ alone

Grace is something given to guilty sinners, but it is only given through Jesus Christ. Spell it out: God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Romans 3:23-24²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* ²⁴ *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 5:20-21²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:* ²¹ *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Ephesians 2:4-7⁴ *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,* ⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* ⁶ *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:* ⁷ *That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.* God has given His grace to us in Christ and that grace will be on display as the ages of eternity roll.

4. Salvation by God's grace leads to godly living and good works

God's grace is not a license to keep on sinning.

Romans 6:1-2¹ *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*²
God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Titus 2:11-12¹¹ *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*¹²
*Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously,
and godly, in this present world.*

God's grace is not an excuse for laziness.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which
God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Anybody who claims to be saved by grace, but has no interest in a godly life or good works,
that person is a disgrace to grace.