

The Two Pillars of Our Salvation

Eph. 2:8,9

Introduction:

- A. Our text reveals what I call, “The two pillars of our salvation.”
 1. Two pillars are God’s grace and man’s faith.
 2. Remove either and salvation falls.
 3. Both must be active in our salvation.
 4. Both are general terms — must look to rest of Scriptures for details.
- B. We want now to look at the two pillars in detail:

Discussion

I. The Grace of God

- A. “Grace” includes all of God’s expressions of grace toward man.
 1. Grace is “unmerited favor” toward man.
 2. Grace in the heart of God has prompted Him to act toward man.
- B. The grace of God is an active grace (cf. Tit. 2:11-12)
 1. By grace, God *planned* our salvation in Christ (Eph. 3:8-10).
 2. By grace, God *gave* us Jesus Christ as savior (Eph. 2:7)
 3. By grace, God *revealed* his plan to save us ((Eph. 3:2-5)
 4. By grace, God *made* us his church — called out people (Malt 16:18; Acts 20:2 8; 2:47)

II. The Faith of Man

- A. “Faith” includes all of man’s expressions of faith toward God.
 1. Faith in the heart of man prompts action toward God (Gal. 5:6)
 2. Faith is the motivation behind scriptural works (cf. Heb. 11)
- B. The faith of man is an active faith (Gal. 5:6)
 1. Repentance is faith in action (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30)
 2. Confession of Christ is faith in action (Rom. 10:10)
 3. Baptism is faith in action (Gal. 3:26,27)
 4. Christian living is faith in action (Gal. 2:20)
 5. Worshiping God is faith in action.

Conclusion:

- A. Neither saving grace nor saving faith is a mere mental exercise.
- B. What if God’s grace had never expressed itself toward man?
- C. What if man’s faith never expresses itself toward God? (cf. John 12:42; Jas. 2: 14-17)
- D. The grace of God and faith of man is brought together in obedience (Heb. 11)