

Ephesians

The Good News

June 1 & 4, 2017

(Galatians 1:6-8) I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

- ✓ Option #1 - We are saved by our works.
- ✓ Option #2 - We are saved by Jesus' works.

The Good News

(1 Corinthians 15:1-2) Now, brothers and sisters, I want you to remember the Good News I told you. You received that Good News message, and you continue to base your life on it. That Good News, the message you heard from me, is God's way to save you. But you must continue believing it. If you don't, you believed for nothing.

1. I am saved from sin and death.

(Ephesians 2:1-5) As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.

(Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Be Reminded : I had a debt that could not be payed.

2. I am saved by grace.

(Ephesians 2:6-9) And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

(Galatians 2:21) I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

Be Grateful : Jesus canceled my debt and extended favor.

3. I am saved for good works.

(Ephesians 2:10) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(Matthew 5:14-16) "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Be Involved : Jesus has rescued us so that we can assist in the rescue of others.

The Result

(Titus 2:11-12) For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

- ✓ What I ought to do becomes what I want to do.