Gift of God

11-8-26

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)
[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
[9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Last week and in the previous verses, we saw that God made us alive. Not only did God makes us alive, but we now see that we didn't do anything to deserve HIS immeasurable grace and kindness. God is clearly and emphatically telling us that our salvation is a free gift. For by Grace we have been saved (made alive). It is important that we understand Grace. Literally Grace means, the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life. Summarize: favor and power. Every time I read the word Grace in the Bible, I immediately think favor and power. Grace is powerful and in Titus 2:11-12, it says grace trains us. Grace is powerful. Thus, by the favor and power of God HE made us alive through faith. *Faith, meaning we heard the truth and trusted what we heard*. We are saved, made alive, not by our own efforts, but by the gift of God and not a result of our works! When God saved us, made us alive, we had nothing to do with it.

We were made alive because of God's favor and power alone. The Bible clearly says, "This is not your own doing." Since it is not of our own doing, the Bible says, "It is the gift of God, not a result of works! Our salvation cost us nothing. Not one cent! If it cost one cent it would be really cheap but not a gift. Galatians 2:21 says if we add any effort, any work, we nullify the grace of God and Jesus died for nothing. Galatians 5:4 says that if we trust good works for our salvation, we are severed from Christ, and we have fallen away from Grace, favor and power. The tiniest bit of effort destroys the work of Christ on the cross. The evilness of our self-effort is explained in the last clause which says, "so that no one may boast." Don't boast because we didn't do it, God did it. When we add anything to the to the work of Christ for our salvation, it is detestable to God.

We must have the same mindset as the great Apostle Paul. In 1 Timothy 1:15, he said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst." What a glorious position, standing before God, chosen and loved by HIM at no cost to us. We are God's beautiful work of art. We are forgiven and alive in God's kingdom.

After we are saved, made alive, God has prepared some good works for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The word Workmanship used here means work of art. Receiving God's salvation, HIS free gift, being made alive, we are now HIS work of art! As God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, God has prepared good works made specifically for us to do. These good works were prepared before HE even saved us. Therefore, we should never complain about our circumstances but walk through them in the power of God. This helps us understand the privilege and power we have and the ever-present obstacles we face in this world. Now we understand the world and our power, authority, and responsibility while living on this earth.

1 John 5:19 (ESV)
We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

We are God's work of art, empowered by God, living in the world influenced by the evil one, Satan.

Jesus says the same thing.
John 10:10 (ESV)
The thief, Satan, comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I, Jesus, came that my sheep may have life and have it abundantly.

As God's works of art in this evil world, we need to embrace the good works that God has prepared for us. We are powerful and we are fearless! God has given us all the power and authority of Christ HIMSELF.
John 14:13 (ESV)
Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

We must accept God's free gift!
John 3:16 (ESV)
God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.