

God saves us by His Grace alone through our faith alone.

1. Paul Warned Against Jewish Legalism, and Encouraged a Walk of Grace by Faith. Gal. 1-6

- a. Paul was called by God to preach the Gospel of Christ (1).
- b. Christ’s Gospel is justification through faith alone—not by works of the law (2-3).
- c. God sent Christ to redeem us as sons and heirs (4), setting us free with His Spirit (5).
- d. Living in His Spirit, we bear others’ burdens and reap eternal life (6).

“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.” ... “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit,” Gal. 3:11-14 ... 5:25

2. Paul Instructed Salvation by Grace through Faith Alone. Eph. 1-3

- a. Predestined, we receive Spiritual blessings in Christ by God’s glorious grace (1).
- b. By grace alone we have been saved through faith, created for good works (2)
- c. In God’s manifold wisdom the mystery of His Gospel unfolds by the Spirit (3).

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them,” Eph. 2:8-10

3. Paul Instructed Confession, Forgiveness and Discipline in Their Faith. Eph. 4-6

- a. With the gifts of His Spirit we are called to unity and holiness (4)
- b. We are called to walk as children of the light and to be filled with the Spirit (5).
- c. In the image of God, we have family and work responsibilities as servants (5-6).
- d. We are to be strong in Christ, and to put on the whole armor of God (6).

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm,” Eph. 6:10-13

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God gives us joy in knowing Christ.

1. Our Joy During Adversity Comes only Through Christ.

Phil.

- a. For joy, we must pray, promote the gospel, and remain steadfast with Christ (1).
- b. We must think like Christ, have unity in Christ, and have the humility of Christ (2).
- c. We must know Christ and His knowledge (3), to receive the peace of Christ (4).

“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,”
... *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* ... *“I can do all things through him who strengthens me,” Phil. 2:8-11...4:4-7 ... 13*

2. Christ is Supreme and Sufficient for Our Every Need.

Col. 1-2

- a. We must know Christ’s Person and Power—Creator of all, Redeemer of many (1).
- b. He is Head of His church and all rulers; we proclaim Him with His wisdom (1:24-2:3).
- c. In Him we have freedom from religious deceit, vanity, ridicule, idolatry, and heresy (2).

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” ... *“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority,” Col. 1:15-20 ... 2:9-10*

3. We Must Submit Fully to Christ, Being Transformed to a Holy Life in Him.

Col. 3-4

- a. In Him we have freedom from “old” earthly immorality, anger, etc. which is dead (3).
- b. In Him we have a “new” life of holiness, kindness, humility, harmony, etc. in Christ (3).
- c. We must continue steadfastly in prayer, thanksgiving, wisdom and His grace for all (4).

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory,” Col. 3:1-4

God gives us joy in knowing Christ.

God wants us to live in Christ, ready for His return.

1. Live in Faith, Love and Hope in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 1-3

- a. Paul commended the Thessalonian Christians for their growth in their faith (1).
- b. Paul founded this church, and Timothy helped its growth in Christ (2).
- c. Paul could not visit, but sent Timothy, who reported encouragement about them (3).

“and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints,” 1 Thess. 3:12-13

2. Be Prepared for the Day of the Lord. 1 Thess. 4-5

- a. Paul gave them advice on growth and revelation about believers who had died (4).
- b. He described the Day of the Lord, and urged them to await it in sober faith and hope (5).
- c. He instructed them to respect their leaders, live in peace, and pray in the Spirit (5).

*“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words,”
1 Thess. 4:16-18*

3. Be Thankful for, Aware of, and Ready for the Day of the Lord. 2 Thess.

- a. Paul encouraged them during persecution, and prayed for their blessings (1).
- b. He again explained the Day of the Lord, with the events for the dead and those alive (2).
- c. We must all work and wait patiently for Christ, keeping pure in our fellowship (3).

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.” 2 Thess. 2:13-17

God wants us to live in Christ, ready for His return.

God wants church leaders who live in Christ’s image of godliness.

1. Paul Advised Timothy for the Leadership of the Ephesus Church. 1 Tim.

- a. Paul warned of false teachers, to hold faith in Christ (1), with prayer and truth for all (2).
- b. Church leaders must meet qualifications (3). Godly leaders are trained in the Word (4).
- c. Paul advised on treatment of widows and elders (5), and for all to be godly servants (6).

“if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory,” 1 Tim.. 3:15-16

2. Once Again, Paul Wrote to Timothy to Persevere in his Ephesus Ministry. 2 Tim.

- a. Paul was thankful for Timothy’s faith, and reminded him of his responsibilities (1).
- b. He described Christian ministers (2), godlessness ahead, and the value of Scripture (3).
- c. Ministers are to preach God’s Word patiently. Paul asked for visits and sent greetings (4).

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work,” 2 Tim. 3:14-17

3. Paul Wrote to Titus Regarding Leaders for the Crete Churches. Titus

- a. Paul instructed appointment of qualified elders to establish church order (1).
- b. They were to rebuke false teachers and Judaizers (1), and to teach sound doctrine (2).
- c. They are to be ready for and maintain all good works, especially urgent needs (3).

“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, ... so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works,” Tit. 3:5a, 7-8

4. Paul Wrote to Philemon Asking Forgiveness for a Runaway Slave. Philemon

- a. Paul asked Philemon, a Christian leader in Colossae, to forgive his former slave (:1-16).
- b. Onesimus should be forgiven as Christ has forgave; is more useful as a servant (:17-25).

“no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me,” Philem. :16-17

God wants church leaders who live in Christ’s image of godliness.

God has given us Christ—the better faith alternative.

1. Christ Is Better—than Prophets, Angels or Moses. Heb. 1-3

- a. The Father has sent His Son Christ, superior to and over the Prophets and Angels (1).
- b. Christ is better in His Deity as God’s Son, and in His Humanity (2), and over Moses (3).
- c. Christ’s work of purification for sins and His person are better than those of Moses (3).

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs,” ... “Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope,”
Heb. 1:1-4 ... 3:5-6

2. Christ is Better—His Priesthood, His Covenant and His Redemption. Heb. 4-10

- a. In entering Christ’s promised rest, we have a Great High Priest and Sympathizer (4-5).
- b. He calls us to maturity, for full assurance (6). Christ’s Covenant is forever (7-8).
- c. The Old Covenant is an earthly holy place (9). Christ’s is once-for-all in faith (10).

“...since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near,” Heb. 10:19-25

3. Christ’s Gift of Faith is Better—With Assurance, Endurance, and Love. Heb. 11-13

- a. Faith is our assurance of what we hope for, as demonstrated by the many prophets (11).
- b. Jesus founded and perfects our faith, and we are to endure and not grow weary (12).
- c. Jesus is our mediator of His New Covenant (12), the same yesterday, today, forever (13).

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible,” ... “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God,” Heb. 11:1-3 ... 12:1-2

God has given us Christ—the better faith alternative.

God gives us a faith in Christ, resulting in sanctification and good works.

1. We are Both Tested and Sanctified through our Faith in Christ.

James

- a. Trials bring steadfastness, completeness; temptation is from one’s own desire and sin (1).
- b. Faith brings obedience, good works, wisdom, humility, and dependence on God (2-4).
- c. Faith brings hope in Christ, our salvation, prayer for others, and discernment of truth (5).

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing,” ... “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death,” James 1:2-4 ... 12-15

2. Faith in Christ Brings us Salvation, Sanctification, Submission, and Suffering.

1 Peter

- a. We are born again to a living hope enduring trials (1), being sanctified by His Word (2).
- b. We must submit to institutions, spouses, and all in life, following Christ’s example (2-3).
- c. Christians are stewards of God’s grace (4). Elders suffer with humility, resisting evil (5).

“you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ,” 1 Pet. 1:4b-7

3. Faith in Christ Builds Character, Condemns Heresy, and Gives Hope in His Return.

2 Peter

- a. In Christ we are sanctified. Practicing holiness, our calling and election is confirmed (1).
- b. Scripture is from God; prophecies from His Spirit (1). False prophets bring heresies (2).
- c. Scoffers distort the truth, but the Lord will return patiently—fulfilling His promise (3).

“supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,” ... “But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Pet. 1:5b-8 ...

3:8-9

God gives us a faith in Christ, resulting in sanctification and good works.

God charges us to know Christ’s truth, discern that of teachers, and denounce heresy of scoffers.

1. For Fellowship in Christ, we must Be in God’s Light and Abide in His Love. 1 John

- a. To walk in the Light, we must confess our sin (1) and obey His commands in love (2).
- b. Beware of worldly love and antichrists (2). Have purity and practice righteousness (3).
- c. Love in Christ’s truth (3). Test spirits, and love as Christ did (4). Pray for guidance (5).

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us,” 1 John 1:5-10

2. Discern the Truth of Christ to Avoid False Doctrine and Such Teachers. 2 John

- a. We must walk in truth in order to walk in love (:4-5).
- b. We must protect the truth, discern false doctrine and avoid false teaching (:7-11).

“Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,” 2 John :9-10

3. We are to Have Welcoming Fellowship with Christian Brothers and Ministers. 3 John

- a. Gaius walked in Christ’s truth, and was hospitable to messengers of His Gospel (:1-8).
- b. Diotrefes turned away the truth (:9-10). Demetrius modeled Christ’s truth (:11-12).

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth,” ... “Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself,” 3 John :2-3 ... :11-12a

4. We are to Resist False Doctrines and Contend Earnestly for Faith in Christ. Jude

- a. Jude describes and denounces false teachers (:1-16).
- b. Our defense is our strong faith in the truth and power of Christ (:17-25).

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life,” Jude :20-21

God charges us to know Christ’s truth, discern that of teachers, and denounce heresy of scoffers.

God gives us a view of Christ’s eternal and victorious defeat of Satan.

1. Christ Shows us “Things Which You Have Seen,” “After This” and Views of Heaven. Rev. 1-5

- a. After Christ appeared, he sent seven letters to the Christian churches in the world (1-3).
- b. Christ and His worshippers were presented at the Heavenly throne (4)
- c. The Lamb was presented to the redeemed for their worship (5)

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.” ... “Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this,” Rev. 1:3 ... 19

2. Christ Steps in for His Believers to Defeat Satan and all Evil. Rev. 6-19:6

- a. The church suffers trials and persecutions in cycles of seven sealed judgments (6-7).
- b. The seventh seal, with seven angels with trumpets, offered prayers of the saints (8).
- c. The church is avenged, protected by Christ, and victorious over Satan and evil (8-11).
- d. Christ is opposed by Satan and evil ones (12-13). Redeemed are marked of God (14).
- e. The wrath of God is dispensed on those who are unrepentant (15-16).
- f. Heaven rejoices as evil falls in the destruction of Babylon and the Beasts’ (17-19).

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen,’” Rev. 7:9-12

3. Satan is Doomed and Christ and His Church Redeemed Victorious. Rev. 19:7-22

- a. Heaven is joyous as Christ comes again (19). Satan is released, rebels, is doomed (20).
- b. Judgment occurs at the Great White Throne (20). New Heaven and Earth are created (21).
- c. Christ’s redeemed live in joy eternally in the New Jerusalem (22).

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.’ The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price,” Rev. 22:16-17

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