

YOU RECEIVE GRACE

...THE POWER OF GOD, WHO SAVED US AND CALLED US TO A HOLY CALLING, NOT BECAUSE OF OUR WORKS BUT BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH HE GAVE US IN CHRIST JESUS, BEFORE THE AGES BEGAN
-2 TIMOTHY 1:9

“Jesus lived the life we should live. He also paid the penalty we owe for the rebellious life we do live. We are not reconciled to God through our efforts and record, as in all other religions, but through his efforts and record... We are more flawed and sinful than we ever dared believe, yet we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope at the same time.

The gospel is, therefore, radically different from religion. Religion operates on the principle: “I obey, therefore I am accepted”. The gospel operates on the principle: “I am accepted through Christ, therefore I obey.”... A lack of deep belief in the gospel is the main cause of spiritual deadness, fear, and pride in Christians, because our hearts continue to act on the basis “I obey, therefore, I am accepted.” So we do not ‘get saved’ by believing the gospel and then ‘grow’ by trying hard to live according to Biblical principles. Believing the gospel is not only the way to meet God, but also the way to grow into him.

Timothy Keller





QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Sometimes we work really hard at things—sports, music, leveling up in that video game we just can't put down. Thankfully, the Bible doesn't preach a Gospel of hard work to earn God's love, not only in our initial salvation ("for by grace you have been saved...") but also in our new life in Christ. God's grace to us is based on Christ's work alone; our works and actions in our new life are our response to what God has done.

Do you ever feel God loves you less when you screw up? Why?

What does the Bible teach us about why God loves us? Read Ephesians 2:4. What does that teach us is the reason that God loves us?

What do we learn about why we obey God from 2 Timothy 1:9?

Our response of obedience to God is a response to the grace He has given us. He has also laid out a plan for us to follow Him. What are some real ways we can live out our lives in response to God's grace?

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The resurrection turns us from law-keeping to gospel-believing and from self-righteousness to an alien righteousness in Jesus Christ. It turns us from trying to earn God's love by our good deeds to freely accepting God's love as a gift through faith in His Son.

-Thabiti Anyabwile, "Captivated"

**QUOTE TO
CONSIDER**

VERSES FOR THE

WEEK

ROMANS 3:22-26

ROMANS 8:28-30

EPHESIANS 1:3-6

TITUS 3:4-8

