

THE GIFT OF SALVATION
Ephesians 2:1-10

Intro: The reason that we have so many ideas about salvation is because the people of God are often deficient in three areas of truth which have to do with salvation:

- 1) They do not understand what they need to know about their condition before they were saved.
- 2) They do not understand the meaning of the grace of God, the sovereign grace of God.
- 3) They do not understand the glorious nature of salvation itself.

How important it is to get started right in understanding these truths from Scripture!

Without a true knowledge of salvation,

- 1) We will never give proper glory to God.
- 2) We will lack assurance. Our assurance comes from the Holy Spirit, but it is always based upon the truth.
- 3) We will not understand what the Christian life is.
- 4) We are going to mislead others.

Sometimes the truth has to be stated in different ways, and even then be stated over and over before it gets into our hearts.

Paul has stated it in Eph. 1, 2 in at least 3 diff. ways:

- 1) Eph. 1:3 -- a gift.
- 2) Eph. 2:4 ff. -- understood, a gift. *John 10:27-30*
- 3) Eph. 2:8, 9 -- a gift. *"I give..."*

In each case we see that as a gift it is undeserved and unearned. And it is so much a gift that God not only has provided salvation for us, but He actually brings it to us and makes sure that we are saved!

There is no question but that salvation could only be ours as a gift when we examine the evidence.

I. IT HAD TO BE A GIFT BECAUSE OF OUR FORMER BONDAGE.

Note the emphasis on the world, the Devil, and the flesh in Eph. 2:2, 3. We were in bondage. We could not have freed ourselves IF we had wanted to.

But Paul brings out a second point:

II. IT HAD TO BE A GIFT BECAUSE WE WERE SATISFIED IN OUR SIN.

There was no inclination on our part to turn to the Lord, and surely no desire to even receive salvation as a gift. This is brought out in these same two verses: Eph. 2:2, 3.

III. ONLY IF IT WERE A GIFT COULD IT BE FOR GOD'S GLORY ALONE
(Eph. 2:4-7).

A. The twofold present aspect of salvation:

1. Presently seated in heavenly places in Christ
(vv. 5, 6).
2. Walking in good works upon the earth (v. 10).

B. The future of our salvation (v. 7).

IV. IT HAD TO BE A GIFT BECAUSE OF OUR TOTAL INABILITY TO
COOPERATE.

If a person wants to be saved, it is only as he looks to
God for life and for faith that he can believe because as
long as he is in his sins he is spiritually dead.

Concl: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift"
(2 Cor. 9:15).

It is "unspeakable" because:

- 1) It cannot be told in detail.
- 2) It cannot be told out to the end.