



**Understanding Righteousness  
The Reign of Grace Explained  
Part 1  
Romans 5:15 – 21**

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Romans 5:15–21

**“But the gracious gift is not like the offense. For if by the offense of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one offense, resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the gracious gift arose from**



many offenses, resulting in justification. For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **So then, as through one offense the result was condemnation to all mankind, so also through one act of righteousness the result was justification of life to all mankind. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.** The Law came in so that the offense would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, **as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**" (NASB 2020)

I am hoping we cover verse 15 today, the topic is grace.

We have discussed the reign of death which began as a result of sin and noted that death due to sin reigned on the planet until Moses brought us the Torah. And there we began to learn and see a bit of God's grace begin to be exposed.

But now, thanks to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross where He took our sins onto Himself in our place, we now are privileged to learn about the reign of grace. It really is all about His grace. Romans 5:13 and 14 explained to us the why about death and where this has come from. Who is the responsible party for all of mankind facing a death penalty.

Before the giving of the law through Moses, all were condemned solely because of Adam. We sin because we are sinners. Now, we have been saved solely through our union with Jesus Christ. This is not an automatic saving but is there contingently available for any if they would but accept the offer of the gift of salvation provided through the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. Most do not. Some lie.

We now see this clearly in verse 15.

Romans 5:15

**"But the gracious gift is not like the offense.** For if by the offense of the one the many died, much more did **the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ,** overflow to the many." (NASB 2020)

The word used for this phrase, "gracious gift" is χάρισμα (charisma). When we see that term, we usually think Spiritual Gifts, but the term is the same for the gracious gift of salvation.

But as we move further down the verse, we then see the phrase "the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ." There the word used is δωρεά (dorea). What we discover here in verse 15 are the two words used in the New Testament most commonly to describe the gift of salvation. First, we focus on this word translated as gift and then we will focus on it being of grace.

δωρεά (dorea) – the word means "present, gift...to receive as a...to take as a gift...as a gift, freely, gratis." (Montanari 2015)

This word lays particular stress on the gratuitous nature of the gift—it is something given above and beyond what is expected or deserved. Every New Testament occurrence of this word is related to a spiritual gift from God. It is what Jesus offers to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:10). It is called the "free gift" in Romans 5:15. It is the "unspeakable [or indescribable] gift" in 2 Corinthians 9:15. This gracious gift is identified as the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38; 8:30; and 11:17. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)



The idea is that the gift of salvation is free, it is freely given and the motivation of God, who is the giver, is His grace and nothing more.

Then there is the other term used here in verse 15. χάρισμα (charisma).

Charisma means “grace, favor, divine mercy, gift of God’s grace, charisma, spiritual gift, granted favor.” (Montanari 2015)

This word as it is used here in Romans 5:15 – 16 is used to define salvation. “Obviously, if something is a “gift of grace,” it cannot be earned. To work for something is to deserve it, and that would produce an obligation—a gift of debt, as it were.” (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

What about grace? That too is here in verse 15. The Greek word for grace is χάρις (charis). The word means “grace, kindness, mercy, goodwill; a special manifestation of the divine presence, activity, power or glory; a favor, expression of kindness, gift, blessing.” (Newman Jr. 1993, 197)

Charles Stanley discusses this definitional meaning in the Greek. “The Greek form of the term grace implies that grace is the “instrument” used to accomplish salvation. In other words, if one were to ask God, “God, how did You save me?” He would answer, “Grace.”

Grace summarizes the entire salvation process. It encapsulates the sending of Christ, the offer of forgiveness, His crucifixion, His resurrection, and His ascension. Why grace? Because grace indicates unmerited favor; it suggests an undeserved expression of kindness and goodwill. **The whole of salvation is just that—an undeserved gift. From start to finish, salvation is by grace.**” (Stanley 1990)

Ephesians 2:8–9

**“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”** (NASB 2020)

Paul is making it clear here to us that salvation is a gift. “To say that our salvation can be taken from us for any reason, whether it be sin or disbelief, is to ignore the plain meaning of this text. To place conditions on the permanency of our salvation is to say it is not a gift. Therefore, placing conditions on the permanency of salvation is the equivalent of not believing Ephesians 2:8 or John 4:10 or other passages where salvation is clearly described as a gift.” (Stanley 1990)

John 4:10

“Jesus replied to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”” (NASB 2020)

Salvation is a gift, we accept that gift by faith and as we have previously discussed, a transaction takes place immediately making us justified, righteous before God as the righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to our account.

I really appreciate the way that Chuck Smith describes this.

God did a marvelous work in your life by His Holy Spirit. When you were still a sinner, God loved you. And when by faith you called out to Him, He justified you of every wrong thing you had ever done. God wiped your slate clean. He obliterated the past so thoroughly that He made it as though it never existed. That is what the term “justified” means...Because of your simple belief in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, God justified you of all your past. Because of your belief, God imputed to your account the righteousness of Jesus. Your relationship with Him began by believing. (Smith 2018, 63-64)



Salvation cannot be earned, it is by God's grace alone, it is due to His mercy. We are not saved by anything we do; we are not saved through works.

Titus 3:5

**"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,"** (NASB 2020)

Got it, so let's discuss the elephant in the room. The idea of the perseverance of the saints. Can we lose our salvation? Can you or I do something that is so offensive to the Father that He says, nope, I am taking this one's salvation away. But how is that possible if our salvation was truly by grace?

Good behavior does not save us, so why do we think that bad behavior can make us lose our salvation? It was a free will choice Ken, and when you walk away that is also a free will choice too and you have relinquished your salvation by your bad behavior. Really?

Romans 11:28–29

"In relation to the gospel they are enemies on your account, but in relation to God's choice they are beloved on account of the fathers; for **the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**" (NASB 2020)

Salvation is a grace gift from God and Paul tells us here, not revocable. Breaking bad does not result in revocation of salvation.

Breaking bad will indeed result in discipline, and possibly to the degree that the Lord will take you home. But it does not produce a revocation in one who has been saved. Paul discussed the problem with folks getting drunk at communion and the discipline being exacted.

1 Corinthians 11:27–32

**"So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died. But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world."** (NLT)

Well, that is all fine and good, but I want to give it back. I don't want to be saved anymore. Really?

First of all, it is a gift, you can only give it back if the giver of the gift will take it back from you. Nowhere in the Bible does it say God will ever do that. Why would He take back what He came to this planet to secure and obtain, at great personal cost, for us?

We are not talking about those who never came to Christ in the first place, but the one who did.

So, about our salvation, once we have trusted in Christ to save us, can God reclaim it? Normal Geisler thought about that as well.

Only God has the power to reclaim it, and His character guarantees that He will never renege on His promise. Further, some tangible acts of freedom are one-way actions—obviously we can choose to get into situations that we cannot subsequently choose (i.e., have the power) to get out of (e.g., suicide). Likewise, the fact that salvation is received by faith does not mean it can be lost by lack of faith. As we have already shown, receiving the gift of salvation is not dependent on a believer's continual faith; the initial act of faith is the means through which justification is applied. (Geisler 2004, 316-317)



We get hung up on the professing but not possessing scriptures. Like we see in Matthew 7:22-23 where Jesus deals with those who are very religious and very lost. What about Judas Iscariot, didn't he go out on mission? Wasn't he saved? Not really, he is an example for us of a way too common problem, wolves in sheep's clothing. We have this problem where we give grace to people, we should not give grace to at all. We are engaged in spiritual warfare at all times.

We need to look at the process like it truly is, a war in the unseen realm and there are only two sides. "The war raging in the unseen world for the souls of human imagers of Yahweh is that kind of war. Neutrality is not on the table. We've seen from the writings of Paul in particular that the advance of Yahweh's kingdom rule was cast as a turf war pitting him against hostile divine beings." (Heiser 2015, 335)

When someone comes to Christ, they are in reality switching sides. They are leaving the side of the flesh, that would be Satan and his lies that he has been spreading since Genesis 3.

Once the new believer says yes to Jesus, they are no longer on that side and it is at that point that things take place in the spiritual realm to seal the deal and literally, make it irrevocable. First the Holy Spirit enters into the new believer never to leave, and with that, comes a new mind and new priorities. We are made totally new and our destiny is no longer eternal death, but it is now eternal abundant life with the one who has saved us by His grace.

Baptism does not save you or me or anyone, but it is commanded as we identify with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Baptism "reflects a heart decision: a pledge of loyalty to the risen Savior. In effect, baptism in New Testament theology is a loyalty oath, a public avowal of who is on the Lord's side in the cosmic war between good and evil. But in addition to that, it is also a visceral reminder to the defeated fallen angels. Every baptism is a reiteration of their doom in the wake of the gospel and the kingdom of God." (Heiser 2015, 338)

In the eyes of Satan, we are turncoats who have left his cause. But again, remember, this is a spiritual war and yes, just as deeply planted spies exist in the physical world, they also exist in the spiritual world as well.

In the world of geopolitical espionage, there are those who are turned from one way of life to another, becoming literally, a follower of the one who turned them. Welcome to what happens to us when we come to Christ, we are no longer following Satan and the world. We have been turned. And when we celebrate communion, which we do every month here at Calvary Chapel, we are literally renewing our vow. We participate in obedience to our King. Just as baptism is an initial rite of allegiance, communion is as well and is a renewal of our loyalty to the one who has paid for us on the cross. He the loyalty He expects and commands of us is exclusive.

Exodus 20:3

"You shall have no other gods before Me." (NASB 2020)

In our culture today, this should look like standing for the flag as it passes by in a parade, standing for the nation anthem. And once upon a time, I remember pledging allegiance to the flag every single day while in school. But even doing all those things does not guarantee that all in this nation are loyal to this nation. The same issue exists in the spiritual realm as well, thus Christ's command to be fruit inspectors (Matthew 7:16).



You see, there are also those who are deep cover spies in the world of geopolitics as well as in the church.

Ann Foley, a part-time real estate agent, lived a middle-class, all-American lifestyle with her husband, Don, and their two sons, in Cambridge, Mass., home of many of America's most prestigious universities and think tanks.

But the likeable, friendly couple had a very secret life.

Ann was, in fact, Elena Vavilova, a deep-cover spy trained by the secret Russian intelligence agency, the notorious KGB. Don, her seemingly pleasant husband, was actually Andrei Bezrukov, also a KGB agent. In June 2010, the couple, both illegals in the US, was arrested by the FBI.

They never spoke a word of Russian to each other or mentioned Russia to their two sons ...— until they were arrested and deported to Russia. Their son, Alex, refused to believe that his parents were spies until he was shown old photos of them wearing KGB uniforms.

“It finally sank in that his whole upbringing had been a lie,” writes Walker. “There was nothing quite like it in the history of espionage.” (Howe 2025)

Now, welcome to a 21st century church and the pastor sounds orthodox and says the right things. Some folks are even saved as a result of what he says. But when the right opportunity arises, we discover that this so-called servant of the Lord, is a servant of someone else entirely. John started seeing some of that almost 2000 years ago, and he did not give us any good news about the problem.

As we examine this, remember, our enemy is a liar and is the father of lies (John 8:44). It is his nature to lie so all those who serve him, have that rather common affliction as well. But some are at a whole other level.

1 John 2:18–24

“Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. **These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.** But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit, and all of you know the truth. So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and lies. **And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist. Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either.** But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.” (NLT)

Peter warned about this being a condition in the church of the last days. And he was right. It has been evident ever since the early church and is getting worse with apostate churches and Laodicean churches we see all around us today. But even in ostensibly good churches, there may be the deep planted wolf waiting to reveal himself.

2 Peter 2:1–3

“But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as **there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them.** In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. **And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up**



**clever lies to get hold of your money.** But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.” (NLT)

This is why we are to always be Bereans. Test what someone is teaching. Liars succeed because they make you think they are truthful literally relying on our decision to not be Bereans.

Matthew 7:15–20

“Beware of false prophets who **come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.** Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.” (NLT)

So, there are indeed those who take grace and use it as a weapon trusting that you will provide them with it, even when you shouldn’t.

I have had conversations with those who were in the process of leaving the reservation and showing their true colors. The hints were all there and many times, we tend to ignore what is front of us almost to the point of it being too late.

We moved to Florida before the reckoning took place with the pastor of a church we attended in Texas. At first, it was a serious Calvary Chapel but then the subtle stuff began to take place. The Senior Pastor withdrew from praying and studying the word with us on Friday mornings. He also stopped attending the men’s ministry meetings each month. We moved. But eventually, he changed out the board and began making it all about him.

Those who warned were churched and removed from the fellowship. Eventually the assistant pastor, who had been there from day one, resigned and shortly thereafter, it all began to fall apart when his replacement was caught sampling the female members of the flock.

Within months, the board, decided to stand up for the Lord and replaced the senior pastor, but the damage had been done. Over a decade later, the church has only recently financially recovered. The damage was indeed severe.

But I am aware of this still taking place elsewhere in our culture. The Laodicean church movement tends to invite it.

In light of the fallen nature of humanity, the Bible repeatedly warns against the misuse of that authority (Matt. 20:25; 1 Tim. 3:3; 1 Peter 5:3). Unfortunately, some churches miss these repeated warnings. They may be so intent on defending the legitimacy of their authority that they devote little time to exploring its possible abuses. (Kruger 2022, 26)

Do these false teachers come to Christ? Sometimes, they indeed do and unlike the snakes they were at one time, there is a real true encounter with the savior. Those who many thought were saved, actually are now saved.

Costi Hinn, yep, related to and involved in the so-called ministry of his uncle, found Christ, while actually preparing a sermon.

“On April 30, 2013, right there in the middle of my sermon preparation, I had what Pastor Tony calls my “grace awakening” moment. I began to cry about things I had never cried about before. I saw in my mind



the faces of so many hurting people and was broken to pieces over the role I had played in exploiting them with false hope. For so long, I had wanted answers but couldn't find them. Now I could finally see the full truth. Over the course of what seemed to be hours, I repented of my sins, false teachings, and life of hypocrisy. I confessed to God that I had twisted his gospel for greedy gain, and I asked him to forgive me and give me a fresh start. I committed to studying the truth, preaching the truth, and standing up for the truth no matter what the cost. The real Jesus was now my Lord, and the real gospel was now my life. I was ready to do whatever it took to make things right, and I promised him I would do whatever the church needed me to do as well." (Hinn 2019, 141)

The man who was instrumental in my finding Christ, Paul Green, was not saved until he was near graduation from Seminary and was serving as a youth pastor. That had taken place years before coming to the church we were at, but he realized what it meant. He even was baptized in that other church he was saved in. I think that is most likely the reason why he always made sure the gospel was part of everything he taught and why he was not afraid to tell his story of salvation.

Then there is Saul of Tarsus who thought he had it all together as a very religious Pharisee, until meeting Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus.

God's grace is indeed sufficient, but at the same time, listen carefully and let the Spirit show you the truth about some of those you decide to listen to. Listen carefully to what they say and then check out the word to see if it is true. Be a Berean, which is why Paul held them up as examples.

Acts 17:11

"Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so." (NASB 2020)

This rather long explanation still feeds into to what we are examining here in Roman 5 about God's grace and about His preservation of those whom He saves. I don't want us to fall into the same bad theology of others around us that say you can lose your salvation or even go as far as to add to what Jesus did on the cross with legalism piled on top saying you must also manifest works consistent with repentance.

I also do not want to go to the other extreme, once saved always saved. Both do not take into account the reality of the spiritual warfare conditions we live in as well as the warnings that Jesus clearly provided us about the kind of soil we would encounter as we share Christ with others. Jesus used an agricultural example of sowing seed.

This is Jesus explaining to us that not everyone who says they are, are. The reason, they never were in the first place. Let's read the parable and then His explanation of it.

Matthew 13:3–8

"And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, **some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**" (ESV)

Jesus then explained to His disciples what this parable meant.

Matthew 13:18–23

"Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was



sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” (ESV)

Not everyone who hears the gospel of Jesus Christ believes. Satan provides enough distractions to keep many away. This includes those who attest to believing. The way folks from Billy Graham explained to me years ago as I was preparing to serve as a counselor at a crusade is this, there are those who see everyone walking forward in a crusade and they go with the flow and really are not fully understanding of what they are doing. They make an emotional decision at the moment. Many of these are those who tell you that they are Christians while demonstrating a life that has no fruit in it at all.

Satan lies to them when they discover that there are those in their life who are not excited about their decision. They love the world more than anything so they walk away and many would tell you they are saved; some even go to church. But they are not saved at all and never were.

This is not a group who lost their salvation, they never possessed salvation to begin with. As fruit inspectors, we would notice a distinctive lack of the fruit of the Spirit.

Then we come to the third group Jesus talks about who are caught up in the world to the point that they just cannot extricate themselves and do not allow the Lord to help them do so.

Some are saved and some most likely are not. What we are learning is something that James also talks about. “There are two kinds of faith: nominal (nonsaving) belief and effectual (saving) belief. The former is mere belief that something is so, and the latter is belief in it. Again, James (in chapter 2) stresses that nominal faith does not lead to good works and is not saving faith.” (Geisler 2004, 323) No fruit in other words.

Jesus seems to be telling us with the parable that only the faith that takes root and produces fruit is saving faith.

When we come to Jesus, we have already discovered He makes us new, totally new at the immediate moment. The Holy Spirit then starts looking at the place He has just moved into and it is a mess. But He cleans up messes. And some of the mess involves the way we act and respond to others and the hatred we have in our hearts. We are at peace now with God, and the expectation is to be at peace with everyone else too.

Seeds, in good soil, produce and grow. I am trying to grow several things right now from seed and I am rapidly coming to the conclusion I have the ability to kill anything. If it goes in the ground, I can indeed kill it.

James 2:18–20

“But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?” (ESV)

A changed heart produces a changed life. Fruit begins to grow in the old dead soil that is now being plowed up by the Holy Spirit and watered by the word of God. The way we used to act, changes.



What we now believe, is reflected in what we now do.

Our actions must be in harmony with what we believe. Belief isn't merely what we say; belief is demonstrated by what we do. In other words, true faith is more than a verbalization. True faith leads to appropriate actions. If I truly believe a certain thing, then my actions will be in keeping with what I believe. I may vehemently protest a belief in something, but if my actions are inconsistent with my professed belief, then my belief must be called into question. (Smith 2018, 44)

As we come to Christ and experience His saving grace, we can indeed take it to the bank that He will keep us and preserve us. He promises to.

Philippians 1:6

**"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."** (ESV)

2 Timothy 2:11–13

"The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself." (ESV)

What Paul writes here to Timothy is important. He tells us first of all, in agreement with what we have yet to study in Romans 6, that when we come to Christ, we are to consider ourselves crucified with Him dead to the old life and sin and alive to God in Christ.

Paul then moves to the special reward that those who endure persecution will obtain and he says it in a positive manner and a negative one. If we endure, we reign, in other words we have been faithful and not denied Him when it truly mattered. He then says the same thing but a reversal of it, if the pressure is on and it really matters and we deny Him, then we will lose out on that special recognition that He just referred to for those who are faithful in persecution.

This brings us to the faithless believer. The one who is stuck in a sinful lifestyle and is currently staying in it.

A faithless person is one who lives as if they never knew Jesus Christ at all, yet this person that Paul is talking about is saved, but faithless.

Charles Stanley continues with this thought. "The unfaithful believer will not receive a special place in the kingdom of Christ like those who are fortunate enough to be allowed to reign with Him. But the unfaithful believer will not lose his salvation.

The term translated "faithless" simply means "unbelieving." Interestingly enough, this verb is in the, you guessed it, present tense. And it's from the same root word used in John where believing is discussed in connection with gaining eternal life.

The apostle's meaning is evident. Even if a believer for all practical purposes becomes an unbeliever, his salvation is not in jeopardy. Christ will remain faithful." (Stanley 1990)

Paul took this idea when he was writing to the folks in Corinth and explained that there will indeed be those in heaven with us who will have a rather smoky smell to them.



1 Corinthians 3:10–15

“Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. **Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.**” (NLT)

Can a believer wind up dying in their sin as a result of discipline from the Lord? Yes, Paul told us that was the case. Are they saved? Yes, Paul also made that clear.

Here is the thing, we are all sinners saved by grace and as such, still have the sin nature to deal with. Yes, there are indeed those who are gaming the system and are in it only for themselves. Why they are not in business I will never know but Satan will indeed use them to mislead millions and lead them to believing in another Jesus, just not the one of the Bible.

But for those who do believe, grace.

Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ for eternal life receives that life. It is a life that can never end, thereby implying eternal security. (Yates 2019, 17)

As mentioned earlier, Paul emphatically states that “God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable” (Rom. 11:29), and he also says that salvation is “the gift of God” (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:9). Hence, God can never overturn salvation: He is bound by His own unconditional covenant to be faithful even if we are faithless (2 Tim. 2:13). (Geisler 2004, 316)

Have you taken advantage of His grace and the salvation Jesus Christ paid for on the cross? Let me explain how simple this is.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

### **ABC’s of Salvation**

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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