

FAITH ALONE.

Ephesians 2:8-9

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.

How to embrace accusation

- We are saved by receiving Jesus Christ through faith – 2:8a *For by grace you have been saved through faith.*

What is grace? Grace is greater than mercy: Grace is an extravagant gift even after the penalty has been absorbed by another.

“I did not learn my theology all at once, but I had to search deeper for it, where my temptations took me.”¹ – Martin Luther

Faith is not:

- Blind
- A feeling
- **Wishful** thinking
- Not a **magic** word

Faith is a decision of the will to trust (God-confidence).

- We are not saved by our own **ability** or good works – 2:8b-9a
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works,

Left to ourselves, we lean towards license to chase our lower desires or legalistic religion that puffs up our pride.

Galatians 3:10-14

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."¹² But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."¹³ 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"—¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

- We can only **boast** in Jesus Christ – 2:9b *so that no one may boast.*

Galatians 6:14

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹ Timothy George, *The Theology of the Reformers* (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2013), 61. George comments, "Properly speaking, faith itself does not justify; it is, so to speak, the receptive organ of justification. It does not cause grace to be but merely becomes conscious of something already in existence. To have faith is to accept the acceptance that is ours in Jesus Christ. But this is not a self-generated human activity; it is a gift of the Holy Spirit." p.72.