

THE AMISH VOICE

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As you look through the Employment section of the classified ads of the newspaper, you will find an assortment of entries to meet almost any need. Here is one you WILL NOT see, but one any of us might have placed at sometime in our lives:

"WANTED: MASTER CRAFTSMAN NEEDED TO REMODEL DAMAGED LIFE. Current life has been damaged beyond normal repairs due to original sin. Owner has tried a variety of ways to correct the problem but has failed every time. The qualified applicant must have the following:

1. **Must have own tools.**
2. **Must be willing to work.**
3. **Must have perfect references.**
4. **Must have a previous successful track record with similar restorations.**
5. **Must be willing to work for nothing. Owner cannot pay anything.**

The owner will be willing to work for the Master Craftsman upon successful completion of his remodeled life. There is an immediate need to fill this position.

Call 1-800-REMODEL for an appointment.

This classified ad closely resembles the cry of every Christian prior to salvation. Our damaged lives are beyond natural repairs, and all of our own efforts to correct the problem have failed.

Thankfully, The Master Craftsman, our Lord Jesus, was qualified to answer our ad. He had all of the tools needed to save us. He was willing to provide the work needed to save us. He was referred to us by His Father. His track record is all of the other saints that have gone before us. Finally, He would not accept any payment for our salvation. As the great hymn song reminds us, "**Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow**"

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

If a man wants to be saved, these verses tell him how to be saved. Salvation [*or deliverance from sin and the lake of fire*] is the work of God, it is totally by God's grace and by God's grace alone. It is not of man, not to any degree whatsoever.

Salvation is a free gift of God. It is by grace alone that man is saved. Man can do nothing whatsoever to save himself. He cannot earn, win, or on his own become *good enough* to merit salvation. All man can do is accept the fact that God says He will save him, and accept the free offer of salvation.

And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it* be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. **Romans 11:6**

Salvation is received by faith. (Romans 3:27; Romans 4:2 & 5). Man must believe just what God says and accept His Word, accept His free offer of salvation. And when he accepts the fact that God says He will save him, God takes him and creates him into a "new man" (**Eph. 4:24; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:4**).



But as many as received him, to them gave he power *[or the right]* to become the sons *[children]* of God...Which were born *[again]*, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **John 1:12-13**

He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...**1 John 5:12-13**

Therefore if any man be in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Man is saved by God and by God alone.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

You are saved by God's grace. Grace means *the favor and kindness of God*. His favor and kindness are given *despite the fact that it is un-deserved and un-earned*.

But God commendeth *[proved]* his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

God has done a thing unheard of among men: God has given His grace to men despite their...

Cursing Him **Worshiping Man Made Rules** **Rebelling Against Him** **Neglect of Him** **False Worship** **Rejecting Him**



Grace is giving, but it is giving to people who do not deserve the gift. What is the gift that God has given? Jesus Christ. God has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to save men. He did not have to give His Son. God could have wiped man from the face of the earth. Man deserved it, but this is God's grace. God is full of mercy and love and kindness—by His very nature He is full of these glorious qualities. Therefore, God was *bound* to shower His grace upon man. God was bound to send His Son to save man.

God is not off someplace in the distance, far removed from man, un-interested and un-concerned with man's sufferings and death. God is gracious, full of mercy, love, and kindness for man; therefore, He has reached out through His Son Jesus Christ to help man. How?

By giving His Son to die for man.

When Jesus Christ hung upon the cross, He was *taking our sins* upon Himself and bearing the punishment for our sins. We had done our own thing and went against God; we rejected and rebelled against Him. The penalty for doing things our own way is death; we are condemned to die. But Christ took our penalty and condemnation upon Himself. He died for us—in our place, in our stead, as our substitute. This is what Scripture means when it says that Christ died *for us*.

For he hath made him [*Jesus*] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

This is the grace of God—God's grace that showered itself upon sinful men who were lost and condemned—God's grace that gave the greatest gift possible to men—the gift of His Son to save the world.

"Being justified [*or made right*] freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" **Romans 3:24**

OK, LET'S APPLY IT TO OUR LIFE:

Have you ever received a gift from someone unexpectedly, and then worried about not having a gift to give in return? If you turned down their gift because you did not have one to give in return, the giver may have been insulted—for the gift was just that—a gift. No strings attached, freely given with no expectations.

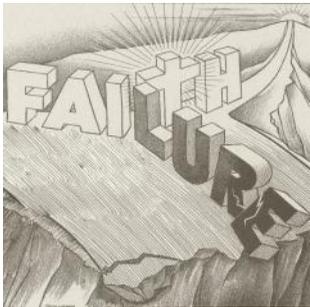


To a small degree, this expresses God's gift of grace to us. Not only is it free, with no strings attached, it is totally un-deserved! What an insult to be offered such a great gift from God and not even accept it. But not only this, can you imagine giving a gift to an enemy? God did! To every one of us—even while we were still sinners. All He asks is that we accept His gift.

Man is saved through Faith

Ephesians 2:8-9...For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

You are saved through faith. What does it mean to be saved through faith? Simply this: Jesus Christ died *for us*. He bore our sin and punishment upon the cross. When we believe, really believe, that Jesus Christ died for us, God does a wonderful thing. God takes our faith and counts it as the death of Jesus Christ *for us*. That is, when we honor God's Son by believing in Him so much that we give *all we are* and *all we have* to Him, God takes the death of Jesus Christ and applies it to us.



The point is this: it is our faith that causes God to look upon us as having been in Christ when He died. It is our faith that causes God to credit us with salvation.

Jesus Christ is God's gift to us. Salvation through Christ has been wrapped up as a gift, and God hands it over to us.

But note: a gift is not ours until we believe it is ours and we take and receive it.

Suppose I hand you my Bible and say, "Here, this is yours. I give it to you as a gift. It is yours; take it." What is necessary for the Bible (the gift) to become yours? You have to believe it is yours and reach out to receive it. You could say, "No thank you..."

I do not believe you! --- I don't want it! --- I deny its existence --- I don't have the time to use it

If this is your attitude, what happens to the gift? It never becomes yours. In my mind I gave it to you, but you never received it. You either did not believe it, thought it was too easy or did not want it. This is what is meant by faith. If you really believe that Jesus Christ died *for you*, you will reach out and receive the gift of God's grace.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **John 5:24**

A man passes from the state of *[spiritual]* death into the state of *[spiritual]* life, from the state of condemnation into the state of justification. When a man is truly saved, he is declared righteous and given eternal life.

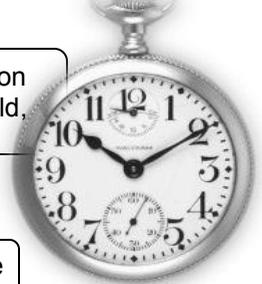


Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. **Ephesians 5:14**

The facts are twofold. The hour has come and now is...

- when the spiritually dead *can hear* the voice of the Son of God.
- when the spiritually dead, who hear, *can live*.

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured *[helped]* thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" **2 Corinthians 6:2**



Man is not Saved by His Own Efforts

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the* gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

You are not saved of yourselves. God is perfect, and to live in His presence, a person must be perfect. This is the great problem of man. Man is not perfect; therefore, he can never live in God's presence—not in and of himself. Even if man could be good enough and do enough good to become perfect (he cannot, but even if he could) he would not be acceptable to God. Why? Because he has already sinned against God and become imperfect. He already stands imperfect, corruptible, aging, dying, and decaying. If man is ever to be acceptable to God—if he is ever to be perfected and have his past wiped clean—it will not be by his own hands. He cannot save himself. Salvation is not of man.

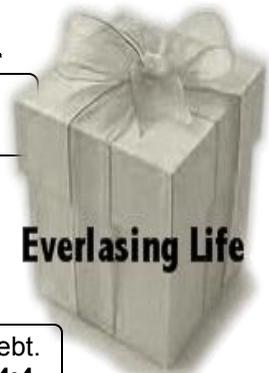
Man's Salvation is a Free Gift and not of Works

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the* gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

You are saved as a gift of God, not of works. There are at least three reasons why salvation must be a free gift.

1. Man cannot make God owe him. Man cannot put God in debt for work performed. A man who works puts his employer in debt for his services.

Now to him who works, the wages *[payments]* are not counted as grace but as debt. **Romans 4:4**



Everlasting Life

God is completely independent. He cannot be put in debt to any man. God cannot be made to owe anything or to be obligated for anything. God does not save man because He is obligated to man or owes man but because He loves and wills to save man.

- 2. Man cannot bring perfection to God.** God is perfect, incorruptible, and permanent. Man and everything about man is imperfect, corruptible, and decaying. Man cannot offer or give anything to God that will satisfy His perfection. Any offer or gift from an imperfect man to a perfect God is not enough.
- 3. Man cannot make God love him.** If salvation were by law and works, the love of God could never be known. God would be forced to save and bless us because He owes us, not because He loves us. We would never know what it is to be loved by God.

But after that, the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us... **Titus 3:4-5**

A Saved Man Cannot Boast For a Moment

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*: Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

The reason salvation is by grace and not by works is to prevent men from ever boasting. God is the Highest Being of the universe. He is the Creator of all that is in heaven and in earth. God is the One who deserves all the worship and glory of eternity and it is not to be shared with anyone. If man were saved by some effort of his own, he would be due some credit and honor—this God cannot allow. His very nature forbids it. As God, He is the Highest Glory of the universe, and as the Highest Being, He is to receive all the glory, praise, and honor. His being God—demands it.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. **Romans 10:1-4**

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **Romans 10:8-9**

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. **Romans 10:12-13**



Dear Friend, at this very moment, you stand before your Creator. To be almost saved is to be totally lost. You are either standing before Him as a saved person or a lost person; You either belong to God's family or you belong to Satan's family. You cannot belong to both families and you cannot be somewhere in-between. If you are not saved but would like to be—Would you just lift your voice towards God and tell Him that you are sorry for trying to get to heaven by your own good works. And then, would you just tell Him too that you are now putting 100% of your trust in Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross for your salvation, so that you can be joined to God's family.

The Difference between Religion and Christianity

Many are GOING TO CHURCH but **few** are GOING DOWN THE ROAD WHICH LEADS TO LIFE (Matthew 7:13-14). Many name the Name of Christ (2 Tim. 2:19) and claim to be Christians but few understand what a Christian really is. Many are **RELIGIOUS** but few are **RIGHT WITH GOD**. May God help us to understand the difference between **RELIGION** and true **CHRISTIANITY** as set forth in the Word of God, the Holy Bible.

RELIGION

Religion is summed up in one word: **DO!** Man trying to DO different things to please God and earn His favor.

TRYING

Man hoping to save himself

RELIGION is man trying to BRING HIMSELF TO GOD (by human effort, good works, etc)

Religion is man trusting his own good works (Titus 3:5)

Doing Something

"I can work my way to heaven and earn my salvation" (Romans 6:23 teaches that we have earned our way to hell: "the wages of sin is death")

The religious man compares himself with others (Luke 18:11).

"I have kept the law! I have done that which God has required" (Matthew 19:16-20).

A religious man trying to earn his way to heaven by works may be likened to a man trying to swim from New York to London by his own efforts and energy and strength. He will never make it!

Religion teaches that good works are the **cause** of salvation.

"I **hope** I will be saved."

"I **think** I will be saved."

"I **feel** that I will be saved, maybe."

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity is summed up in one word: **DONE--** Christ dying on the cross to save sinful man (John 19:30).

TRUSTING (Acts 16:31)

God saving hopeless man (1 Tim. 1:15)

CHRISTIANITY is Christ BRINGING US TO GOD on the basis of what He did for us on the cross (1 Peter 3:18).

Salvation is man trusting the good work which the Lord Jesus did on the cross (Rom. 3:22-26).

Knowing Someone (John 17:3)

"I could never live well enough to earn my way to heaven. Christ had to pay the price for my salvation (1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).

The saved man sees himself as God sees him (1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 53:1-3; Rom. 3:10-12).

"I have broken the law but I am trusting the One who came into this world to save guilty lawbreakers" (1 Tim. 1:15).

The person who is saved by faith is likened to a man getting on a ship in New York and trusting that ship to bring him safely to London. This man simply rests upon the ship and lets the ship do all the work.

The Bible teaches that good works are the **result** of salvation.

"I **KNOW** I am saved right now" (1 John 5:13-
"These things have I written unto you that believe on to name of the Son of God; that ye may **KNOW** that ye have eternal life").

There are two Worlds—For which do you live?

Do you realize that there are two worlds, living side by side and occupying the same space? For which do you live? (1) the temporary world? (2) the eternal world?

Temporary World

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Eternal World

Ephesians 3:21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:48-49 *As is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and *as is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Mission to Amish People
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