

Salvation Is By Grace

Text : **Acts 15: 6-11** , **Titus 2: 11-15**

A. Are you a good Christian ?

S#1.

1. Are you as good a Christian as you should be ? **No !**
2. Are you as good a Christian as you could be ? **No !**
3. Knowing you fall short of what you should or could be, what is your status before God ?

B. When is the last time you sinned ?

S#2.

1. Have you sinned today ? Yesterday ? The day before ?
2. Was there ever a day when you did not sin ? How old are you ?
3. If you sinned once a day how many sins is that ? (**start from 10**)
 - a. Age 30 ... 7,300 sins
 - b. Age 45 ... 12,775 sins
 - c. Age 65 ... 20,075 sins

S#3.

C. You are not alone; everyone sins.

S#4.

1. Sin is rebellion against God ... obeying one's own desires

Isa. 53: 6a – All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;

2. Sin is a universal problem.

S#5.

Rom. 3: 22b-23 for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

D. The result of universal sin is universal condemnation.

S#6.

1. No one is able to rise above his sins so no one is right before God.

Rom. 3: 9 b-10 ... We have already charged that both Jews and Greeks **S#7.**
are all under sin; ¹⁰ as it is written, "There is none righteous,
not even one;

2. Sin separates the sinner from God.

Isa. 59: 1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is **S#8.**
His ear so dull That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have made
a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden
His face from you so that He does not hear.

3. The N.T. refers to this separation as spiritual death.

S#9.

Rom. 6: 23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. When Christ returns that separation becomes eternal.

S#10.

II Thes. 1: 9 – These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

E. “One who sins is separated” has been God’s law from the beginning of time.

1. **Gen. 3** ... Adam and Eve were separated from God by their sin. Their son ...

2. This is called “The Law of Sin and Death.”

S#11.

Rom. 8: 2 – For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Surely God did not create men just to kindle the fires of Hell.

(*Jews described gentiles this way*)

Obviously God provided a way for man to be reunited with Him.

S#12.

That way is our lesson today “*Salvation By Grace Through Faith.*”

I. Before God created man, He had a plan to save man from his sin.

S#13.

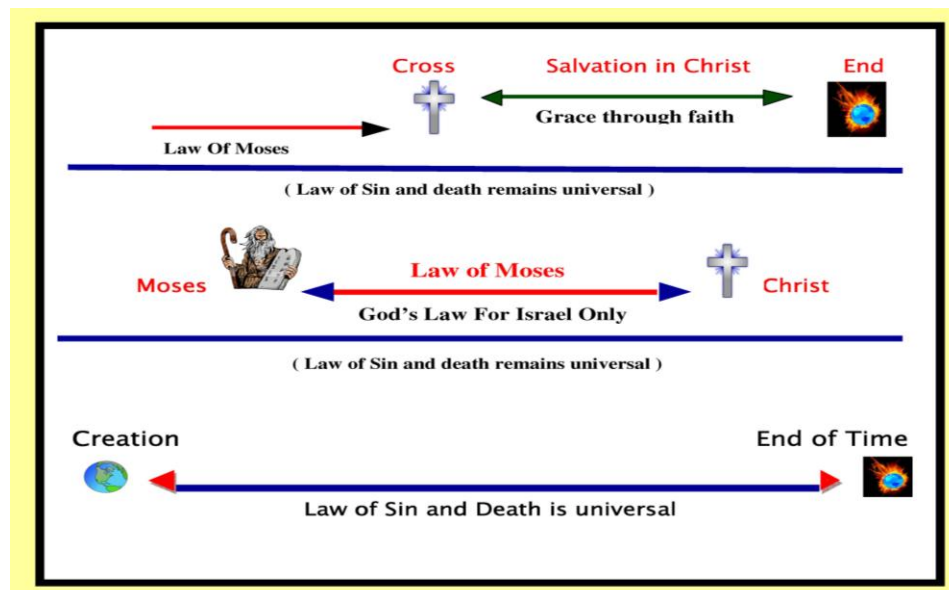
A. God’s revealed His plan when He determined the time was right.

1. **I Pet. 1:20-21** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but **S#14.** has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

2. **Gal. 4: 4-5** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, **S#15.** born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

B. Observe the following chart. (*Starting from the bottom*)

S#16.



1. Our creator God has demanded obedience from the first until now.
 - a. Adam & Eve were driven out of the presence of God.
 - b. Cain was driven out.
 - c. Ancient world (*Flood*)

* *All mankind was under the law of God and remains under it until now.*
2. Through Moses, God gave a special law for the nation of Israel.
 - a. He gave them that law as their king as well as their God. (**Ex. 6:7** –cf– **I Sam. 8:7**)
 - b. That law was intended for ONLY the nation of Israel.
 - c. The law was never meant to save men from their sins, but to govern God’s nation.
 - 1) The Law of Moses was a schoolmaster. . . . **Gal. 3: 24-25** S#17.
 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.
 - 2) The Law demonstrated to gravity of sin. . . . **Rom. 7: 7-8 , 13** S#18.
 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸ But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.
13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful. S#20.
 - 3) Israel’s law was nailed to the cross at the crucifixion. . . . **Col. 2: 13-14** S#21.
 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
 - 4) The scriptures clearly teach that keeping the Law of Moses could not save any ... even if they kept it perfectly. ... **Rom. 3: 19-20** S#22.
 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.
 - 5) Therefore, we understand that : (chart slide) S#23.
 - a) The Law of Moses was never meant to save anyone from sin.
 - b) The Law of Moses never meant to be a universal law ... only for Jews.

c) The Law of Moses was meant to be temporary ... Luke 16: 16. **S#24.**

*** God's covenant with Israel was fulfilled, the law was nailed to the cross and the Israel of the O.T. received final judgment in 70 A.D.**

3. In Christ, God introduced His eternal plan to save man. **S#25.**

a. The death of Jesus on the cross was a blood sacrifice to atone for sins. **S#26.**

1) **I Cor. 5: 7** – Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

2) Explain the significance of the Passover lamb ... blood above door (*song*)

b. Jesus offered Himself to take away guilt.

1) **Heb. 9: 13–14** For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **S#27.**

2) What is cleansing of the flesh ? *It is not cleansing sin.* (flesh = earthly) **S#28.**
Heb. 10: 4 – For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins

3) Jesus sacrificed Himself to save men from the consequences of their sins ... death.
Eph. 1: 7 – In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness **S#29.**
of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace;

II. Today, absent the Law, there are two systems by which man can approach. **S#30.**

(chart slide) **S#31.**

A. The first system is “The law of works.” (*any legal system*)

1. Definition : Any binding code of regulations dispensing only justice wherein **S#32.**
one violation condemns ... with no provision made for justification.

2. Examples of laws of works :

a. Law of sin and death ... **Rom. 8: 2**

b. Law of Moses ... **Heb. 10: 28**

3. Consequences of a law of works :

a. **Gal. 3: 10-11** ... One must keep all of it perfectly.

b. **James 2: 10** ... To violate one provision is to violate all.

c. **Rom. 6: 23** ... The result of violation is death.

d. **Rom. 3: 19-20** ... The whole world is brought under judgment.

4. Any approach to God based upon **merit** is an approach via a law of works.

B. The second system is the “Law of Faith.”**S#33.**

1. Definition : Any binding code of regulation where provision is made for error (sin) by vicarious payment ... the DEATH of CHRIST.
2. Those who approach God via faith in Jesus as the Christ are under this law. **S#34.**
 - a. **Acts 10: 43** – Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.
 - b. One can never be forgiven under law of works, **he can** under law of faith.
3. **Rom. 3: 21-26** But now apart from the Law *the righteousness of God has been* **S#35.** manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and **S#36.** fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the* **S#37.** forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
4. **Eph. 2: 8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **S#38.**
 - a. A gift is not earned, it is received or rejected.
 - b. Definition : “**Grace**” (in Christian belief) the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners.
5. **Rom. 4: 4-5** Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, **S#39.** but as what is due. ⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,
 - a. We earn wages when we sin ... **death is due us** ... God owes us death.
 - b. The state of being right with God, i.e., righteousness is credited to us .. **given free.**

III. Salvation by Grace through faith demands a response.**S#40.****A. God has a use for every saved person.**

1. **Eph. 2: 10** – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good **S#41.** works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
2. Notice three things from this verse :
 - a. Christians are save FOR good works
 - b. The works are determined by God BEFORE you were saved.
 - c. The good works must be a WALK , i.e., a lifestyle.

B. To accept the gift of salvation one must leave his former lifestyle.**S#42.**

1. **Titus 2: 11-14** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, men ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory **S#43.** of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
2. This response is motivated by our faith and our love for God, not done **to be saved.**

CONCLUSION :**A. All of us will die and then stand before God to be judged. Heb. 9: 27****S#44.**

1. God will hold us accountable for everything we ever did.
II Cor. 5: 10 – For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, ...
(Cf. - **Matt. 12: 36** ... ever careless)
2. There will be no mercy only justice.
3. The standard of judgment will be the Law of Sin and Death. (*absolute justice*)
4. Time will be no more and all who have sinned will be separated out eternally.

S#45.**B. Those who have chosen the Law of Faith, will be FREED from that standard.**

1. **Rom. 8: 1-2** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **S#46.**
2. We'll also be judged for each and every transgression, but our penalty was paid. **#47**
Rom. 3: 21-26 ... being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption **S#48.** which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

C. Each person must choose which system he will be under when judged.**S#49.**

1. One cannot be under both.
2. Of one who seeks to be good enough Paul says :

S#50.

Gal. 5: 4 – You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

INVITATION :**S#51.**

You cannot save yourself. Put your faith in Jesus. He can save you.

Lesson Text :**Titus 2: 11-15**

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Acts 15: 6-11

6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. **7** After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. **8** “And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; **9** and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. **10** “Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? **11** “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.

Isa. 53: 6 – 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.