

## According To His Grace

### Scripture

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5 NKJV)

### Commentary

God saved us according to His mercy. The basis for His saving act was His mercy not our works. This work of salvation was accomplished by the Holy Spirit, and is called regeneration. Regeneration makes the believer ready for good works. Notice Paul’s comment in Ephesians, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV)

It is critical to faith to maintain this understanding. How secure would you feel if your salvation was dependent upon your performance? Even the most righteous Christian is infinitely inferior to Christ. “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed [is] everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.’ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God [is] evident, for ‘the just shall live by faith.’” (Galatians 3:10-11 NKJV)

However, it is important to understand that faith works. To live by faith, means doing good works. Works are faith in action. The same faith that we have in Christ to save us moves us to trust Him in good works.

Therefore, we see that faith in Christ produces good works, but faith in good works will leave a person in sin. Good works can never pay the sin debt. Only the righteous work of Christ and one’s faith in Him can pay that debt. He could pay it because He was without sin as the God-man. We, even after regeneration, are sinful. Only when we leave this world will we be completely without sin.

Sometimes in our walk with the Lord we are tempted to assume a practical righteousness we do not have. We start thinking we have arrived. This is a recipe for more sin. We would do well to remind ourselves like Paul, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV)