



From Start to Finish: Salvation by Grace Alone
The Five Solas, Week 3 - Sola Gratia
By Pastor Bill Alderson - 10/15/2023

Main Verse: Genesis 6:5-8

⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

⁶And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸**But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.**

- ☐ Today, whether you're a regular attendee or visiting us for the first time, we have a special topic that forms the bedrock of the Reformed faith. If you've ever wondered about the core beliefs that drove the Protestant Reformation and continue to guide many churches today, you're in for a treat as this month we are delving into what we call the "Five Solas."
- ☐ **"Sola"** is a Latin word meaning **"alone"** or **"only."** These Five Solas are like pillars—***fundamental truths***—that summarize the Bible's teachings on where our **salvation** and **right standing** with God come from.
 - ☐ **In week 1, Pastor Jody covered Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone):**
This means that the Bible alone is our ultimate source of truth and authority. It's not tradition, nor church leaders, but God's Word that stands as the final say.
 - ☐ **Last week, Pastor Onan covered Sola Fide (Faith Alone):**
We're saved through faith alone, not by any good deeds we can do. Our trust in Jesus Christ's sacrifice is what brings us into a relationship with God.
 - ☐ **This is now week Three, and I'll be covering Sola Gratia (Grace Alone):**
Our salvation is a free gift from God. We don't earn it; it's given out of God's love and kindness.
 - ☐ **Next week, Pastor Mike will be covering Solus Christus (Christ Alone):**
Jesus Christ is the only mediator between humans and God. It's through His life, death, and resurrection that we find hope, forgiveness, and eternal life.
 - ☐ **Jody will be back from his mission trip and will round us out with Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone):**
Everything we do is for God's glory, not ours. Our lives, our worship, our service—all of it is to point to Him.



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- ☐ For those who are hearing about these for the first time, think of these Five Solas as the foundational principles that anchor our faith, ensuring it's centered on God's Word, His grace, and the work of Jesus Christ.
- ☐ So today, we will move forward to the third pillar, Sola Gratia.
- ☐ "Sola Gratia" underscores the essential Reformed belief that God's grace is the sole means by which individuals are saved.
- ☐ This doctrine stands against any teaching that humans can earn or contribute to their salvation, emphasizing God's sovereignty and love in the salvation process.
- ☐ Throughout this series, we've been focused on showcasing how the five solas connect from Old Testament teachings with the New Testament, so let's journey back to the book of Genesis – back to the start. Here, we'll uncover the foundational roots of the concept of Sola Gratia.

Genesis 6:5-8

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⁶And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

- ☐ One single verse in the book of Genesis that beautifully exhibits the concept of **Sola Gratia - Grace Alone** - is Right there in Genesis 6:8:

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

- ☐ In the midst of the corruption and wickedness of humanity, Noah, like all humans, was not inherently righteous on his own.
- ☐ The verse doesn't say that Noah earned God's favor or was righteous by his own merit. Instead, he "found favor" (or grace) in God's eyes.



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- ☐ This demonstrates the unmerited favor, or grace, of God being shown to Noah in a time when the world was spiraling into moral chaos.
- ☐ While Noah was certainly a righteous man in his actions (as mentioned in the subsequent verses), it's crucial to recognize that the foundational relationship between Noah and God was established by God's grace.
- ☐ In examining the early narrative of Genesis, particularly in the context of Genesis 6:8, we observe the profound nature of God's grace as it's woven into the fabric of humanity's story from the very beginning.

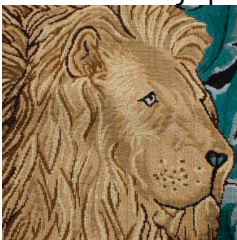
[Main Point]

God's unearned grace drives salvation, election, and genuine good works.

- ☐ This sounds like **a lot** to take in, I know.
- ☐ But Imagine with me that you're looking at a beautiful tapestry. From a distance, you see a beautiful image, like the one we're showing here, of a lion, proud, on the hunt – it's beautiful.



- ☐ But it's only when you come closer that you notice the individual threads making up the masterpiece.



- ☐ Similarly, when we talk about God's unearned grace, we're looking at the **grand design of our faith**.



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[Key Points]

- ☐ Now, **let's step closer** and explore the specific threads — **those essential truths** that, woven together, bring clarity to the bigger picture.
- ☐ Each thread reveals a **unique aspect of grace**, enhancing our understanding of its deep significance in our spiritual journey.
- ☐ So let's unravel them together as we go through the following four key points:

1. Grace is God's Unmerited Favor for Salvation

- **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, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**"

- This verse underscores the belief that salvation is **not** based on human effort or merit but is instead a gift from God. It's His grace that brings about salvation, and humanity **cannot earn it through good deeds or works.**

Let's continue to unravel this thread a little more:

- **Salvation as a Divine Gift**

- ☐ Salvation is presented not as something we can achieve, **but as a gift freely given.** The term "gift" in Ephesians 2 emphasizes that salvation isn't a wage earned, but rather a gracious present from God. This understanding keeps pride at bay and reminds believers that their salvation is entirely dependent on God's benevolence.

- **The Role of Faith**

- ☐ Faith is the means by which believers receive salvation, but even this faith **is not from themselves.** The verse makes it clear that even though salvation is received through faith, this faith is not a result of human initiative. Instead, faith itself is part of the **gift given by God**, ensuring that all aspects of salvation **remain under God's domain.**

- **Works Cannot Lead to Salvation**

- ☐ Good deeds or works are not the basis for salvation. Ephesians 2 **contrasts grace with works**, underscoring that no amount of human effort **can merit salvation.** This challenges religious systems or beliefs that emphasize **ritualistic or moralistic paths to salvation apart from God's grace.**



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■ **The Danger of Boasting**

- The nature of salvation guards against human pride and boasting. By emphasizing salvation as God's unmerited favor, the verse ensures that believers recognize that **they have no grounds to boast in their salvation**. The credit goes **entirely to God**, promoting a posture of **humility** among Christians.

■ **The Centrality of Grace**

- Grace is the **foundational characteristic** of God's redemptive action. The repeated emphasis on "grace" in the New Testament, and especially in Ephesians, underscores its primary role in salvation. God's grace, which can be understood as His unmerited favor or kindness, is central to the Christian understanding of redemption. **This sets Christianity apart**, as it presents a relationship with God based on **His initiative and benevolence**, rather than Our achievement.

■ **Looking back at Noah...**

- Reflecting on the profound truth that "Salvation is God's Unmerited Favor," we recognize that it's purely grace that underpins our salvation. Noah, a descendant of Adam, was inherently imperfect and bound by the same fate as all of humanity.
- Yet, in His boundless mercy and grace, God chose Noah. It wasn't Noah's righteousness that earned him this favor, but rather God's grace that saved him. His faith was a gift, a revelation that God had a plan for his salvation.
- As descendants of Noah, let's anchor our trust in God. Even in the most challenging moments, remember that our salvation isn't about our worthiness, but about God's unwavering nature and grace.

2. Grace Predates Human Action

○ **Romans 5:8**

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- God's grace was extended to humanity **even while we were still in a state of sin**. Salvation through Jesus' sacrifice demonstrates that grace isn't a reaction to human goodness, but rather **an initiation by God's love**. Let's expand this thought some more:



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■ **The Timing of God's Grace**

- God's grace was demonstrated at humanity's lowest point. The verse highlights that Christ's sacrificial act took place "while we were still sinners." This underlines the fact that **God didn't wait for humanity to improve or become righteous** before extending His grace. His action was **proactive**, not reactive.

■ **The Depth of God's Love**

- The magnitude of God's love is showcased in **His willingness to save sinners**. God's decision to have Christ die for sinners — **and not the righteous or deserving** — is a profound demonstration of love. It shows the lengths God is willing to go to redeem humanity, irrespective of our **moral standing**.

■ **The Unconditionality of Grace**

- God's grace is not contingent upon human merit. By emphasizing the sinful state of humanity when Christ died for us, the verse makes clear that **God's grace is not conditional on human worthiness or deeds**. It is an unconditional gift rooted in His love and purpose.

■ **The Distinction between Human Effort and Divine Initiative**

- Salvation is based on God's initiative, not human effort. Romans 5:8 underscores the distinction between human actions and **God's redemptive plan**. It is God who initiates the process of salvation, **independent of human goodness or merit**, ensuring that grace remains entirely a divine act.

■ **The Implication for Christian Life**

- Recognizing God's preemptive grace shapes the believer's response **to God and others**. Understanding that God loved and extended grace even during humanity's sinful state fosters humility, gratitude, and a deeper appreciation for grace in believers. This recognition can shape a Christian's relationship with God and **drive us to extend grace and unconditional love to others**, just as we have received it from God.

■ **Looking back at Noah...**

- Let's now go back to the narrative of Noah. Many read Genesis 6:9 and surmise that Noah was deemed worthy by God due to his actions:



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1. Genesis 6:9

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

- However, it's crucial to note the order of events. Before we hear of Noah's righteousness in verse 9, verse 8 tells us:

1. Genesis 6:8:

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

- This reflects the heart of the gospel message. Our salvation through faith is a result of God's unmerited grace. Just as Noah first found favor in God's eyes and then was described as righteous, we too are first loved by God in our sinful state. Through His love, **embodied in Christ**, we are imputed with righteousness. **This righteousness is not our own but is Christ's.**
- So when you're grappling with doubts during tough times, wondering, "How can God love someone like me?" Remember, it's not contingent upon your actions or worth. **God's love stems from His nature and His choice.**
- You embody the works and righteousness of Jesus, making you an object of His unfailing love. As descendants of Noah, **let's anchor our trust in God.** He remains faithful, not because of our deeds, but because of His **intrinsic nature.**

3. Grace comes only through Election

○ **Romans 11:5-6**

"So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise **grace would no longer be grace.**"

- The concept of election in Reformed theology teaches that God chooses individuals for salvation **based solely on His grace**, not on any human action or foreseen merit. God's grace is what differentiates it from human works.

▪ **The Notion of a Remnant**

- Throughout history, God has always **preserved a group of people for Himself.** The "remnant" referred to in the verse echoes the Old Testament theme where, even in times of apostasy and unbelief, God **always preserved a faithful subset of Israel.** This remnant isn't based on their merit but is "chosen by grace." It underscores the consistency of God's character and His **commitment to save**, even when the majority might stray.



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▪ **The Exclusivity of Grace**

- ☐ Salvation through grace and salvation through works are mutually exclusive. Romans 11:6 makes it clear that grace and works are opposing concepts when it comes to salvation. If salvation were based on works, then it wouldn't be by grace, and vice versa. This exclusivity underscores the purity and completeness of God's grace.

▪ **Election: God's Sovereign Choice**

- ☐ God's election is based on His sovereignty and not influenced by external factors. The idea of election in this context means that God chooses individuals for salvation based on His own will and purpose. This choice, being rooted in grace, isn't based on any foreseen human action, merit, or response.

▪ **The Undeserved Nature of Grace**

- ☐ Grace, by definition, is unmerited favor. Romans 11:5-6 emphasizes that grace is not something that can be earned or merited. If it were something that could be earned, it would not be grace. This stresses the generosity and magnanimity of God in granting salvation freely.

▪ **Implications for Boasting and Humility**

- ☐ Understanding salvation by grace eliminates grounds for human boasting. Since salvation isn't based on human works or merit but solely on God's grace, there's no room for individual boasting. Believers recognize that they've been chosen and saved not because of what they've done, but because of God's immense love and grace, leading to a posture of humility.

▪ **Looking back at Noah...**

☐ **Genesis 7:15-16**

¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

- ☐ In Genesis 7:15-16, we witness a profound testament to the concept of "God's Election is by Grace." Here, amidst the impending flood, God's grace is evident in His act of selecting and preserving Noah, his family, and the animals. This wasn't based on their merit but purely His sovereign choice.



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- ☐ This theme of divine election and preservation is consistent throughout biblical history. From sparing Jacob and his sons during famine, to maintaining a remnant of Hebrews despite their rebelliousness post-Exodus, and ensuring the survival of a lineage even after Jerusalem's fall.
- ☐ Moreover, for the last 2,000 years, God's grace has been the bedrock of the church's preservation. God's commitment to sustaining His people is unwavering, not due to our worthiness, but for the glory and honor of His name.

4. Grace Leads to Good Works, Not the Other Way Around

- **Ephesians 2:10**

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

- While good works are not the basis of salvation, they are the result of it. This verse highlights that believers are crafted by God to do good works. These works are a response to God's grace and are evidence of a transformed life in Christ.

- **Divine Craftsmanship**

- ☐ Believers are the product of God's intentional design and purpose. The phrase "we are his workmanship" conveys the idea that each believer is uniquely crafted by God. This divine craftsmanship speaks to the intimate involvement and care God has in shaping the life and purpose of each individual.

- **Purposeful Creation in Christ**

- ☐ The new life that a believer has in Christ is oriented towards good deeds. Being "created in Christ Jesus for good works" underscores the idea that the believer's new identity in Christ **inherently** involves a calling or orientation towards good deeds. This isn't an afterthought but a **core aspect** of the new life in Christ.

- **God's Sovereign Preparation**

- ☐ Good works aren't random but have been divinely orchestrated. The phrase "**which God prepared beforehand**" reveals the sovereign planning of God. This means the good works believers engage in aren't just spontaneous acts, but they align with God's eternal purposes and plans for each and every individual. That His Will be done.



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■ **Walking in Prepared Works**

- Living out the Christian life involves active participation in the good works prepared by God. The call to "walk in them" is an **active directive**. It suggests that **while God has sovereignly prepared these works**, believers have a **responsibility** to actively pursue and live out these deeds in their daily lives, **aligning their actions with God's purposes**.

■ **Evidence of Transformation (last thread)**

- Our good works serve as **tangible markers** of **inner spiritual transformation**. While these works **don't contribute to salvation**, they act as visible indicators of a heart and life transformed by grace. As believers grow in their relationship with Christ, their lives naturally produce more fruit (good works) that testify to the genuine work of grace within them.

■ **Looking back at Noah...**

□ **Genesis 6:14-16, 22**

¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

²² Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

- In this account, Noah, **who likely was unfamiliar with rain** and possibly having **never seen the vastness of the ocean**, finds himself tasked with a monumental endeavor: **building an ark**.
- But this wasn't just any assignment; it was a **divinely-appointed work**, a product of God's grace. See, grace **goes beyond mere personal favor**; it intertwines with God's grander plan.
- While Noah's story stands out in biblical history, **the principle remains the same for us**. Though our stories might not seem as monumental as Noah's, **God's grace empowers us for specific good works**, designed to extend His mercy and light in a world that often seems lost.
- Embracing Sola Gratia implies **recognizing our purpose in God's narrative**, to perform good deeds that ultimately shine forth His glory.



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[CHALLENGE]

- ☐ As we've deeply reflected on the transformative power of God's grace, it becomes clear that **it doesn't merely** rest as **a passive doctrine** in our lives.
- ☐ This grace, which serves as the **cornerstone** of our faith, compels us to move from contemplation to action.
- ☐ It calls us not to just be hearers of the Word but **doers**.
- ☐ Having seen the evidence of transformation and understanding our unique role in God's divine tapestry, we must now confront a vital question:
How will we respond to this grace in our daily lives?
- ☐ Church, let's challenge ourselves to take tangible steps, **rooted in the grace we've received**, and actively embody the purpose for which we've been so lovingly crafted by **encouraging one-another** to do the following:

Challenge 1: Recognize Grace in our Lives

- ☐ I would like to encourage each of you to reflect on moments of grace in your own lives, both big and small. The momentous occasions and the sweet daily moments.
- ☐ **Titus 2:11-12 (ESV)**
"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live **self-controlled, upright, and godly lives** in the present age,"
- ☐ This verse encourages believers to reflect on how the grace of God, which brings salvation, also actively trains and molds our character and behavior in our daily lives.

Challenge 2: Be Conduits of Grace

- ☐ **Matthew 10:8 ...You received without paying; give without pay.**
 - Just as we've received grace, we're called to extend grace to others.
 - **Matthew 10:8**, is part of the instructions Jesus gave to His twelve disciples when He sent them out to minister to the "lost sheep of Israel." In context, the full verse is:
 - **8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. - Matthew 10:8 (ESV)**
 - The principle in this verse mirrors the concept of **Sola Gratia**.



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- It underscores the **grace-filled nature of God's Kingdom**, in which we are adopted sons and daughters, where blessings **are given** not because of merit, but out of God's **abundant love**. This verse also serves as a challenge to all believers: since we have been recipients of God's grace, we should be **generous** in sharing it with others. Let us encourage one-another towards that.

Challenge 3: Lean on God's Grace

- *2 Corinthians 12:9.*

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast **all the more gladly of my weaknesses**, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

- In this passage, Paul is discussing a "thorn in his flesh" (a specific challenge or affliction) and how he pleaded with the Lord to take it away. In response, God reminds Paul of the **sufficiency of His grace**, highlighting the principle that God's strength is most profoundly revealed in our weaknesses.
- In our weakest moments, recognize that **God's grace is sufficient**, people!

Challenge 4: Celebrate Grace

- Delight in the daily grace God provides. This leads to **a joy** that is **unshakeable** because it's founded **not on our circumstances**, but on **God's unchanging love**.
- **Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)**
"The steadfast love of the Lord **never** ceases; his mercies **never** come to an end; they are new **every morning**; **great** is your **faithfulness**."
- This verse beautifully highlights the renewing and consistent nature of God's grace and mercies, **reminding us to find joy** in His unwavering love and faithfulness.

Each story that we are told in the Bible of a **man or woman** who has done an **amazing thing** is due to a God who provides **amazing grace**, and also underscores the transformative power of **God's unmerited favor**.

I want to close out today with some examples of how God's grace works in different ways – from God directly helping out, to big changes in our hearts, and from amazing rescues to deep personal discoveries about God:

- **Adam and Eve:**
The first man and woman, who also committed the original sin.
Despite their disobedience, God mercifully clothed them and promised redemption through the seed of the woman.



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- **Noah:**
As we discussed, was a righteous man in a wicked generation. God's grace saved him and his family from a global flood, preserving humanity.
- **Abraham:**
Called from Ur of the Chaldeans to be the father of many nations. By grace, God established a covenant with him, promising descendants *as numerous as the stars*.
- **Sarah:**
Abraham's wife and mother of Isaac. Miraculously, she conceived in old age due to God's grace, ensuring the covenant lineage.
- **Jacob:**
The younger twin of Isaac, known for his cunning. Despite his flaws, God's grace renamed him Israel and promised his descendants would be a great nation.
- **Joseph:**
Jacob's favorite son, sold into slavery by his brothers. By divine grace, he rose to Egyptian prominence, saving many from famine, including his own family.
- **Moses:**
Born a Hebrew slave but raised in Pharaoh's palace. Through grace, he was chosen to lead Israel out of Egyptian bondage and received from God himself the Ten Commandments.
- **Rahab:**
A prostitute in Jericho. By grace, she and her family were spared during Jericho's fall due to her faith and she became an ancestor to Jesus.
- **Samson:**
A Nazirite with immense strength. Even after his many mistakes, God's grace allowed him to defeat Philistine oppressors one final time.
- **Ruth:**
A Moabite widow. God's grace led her to Boaz, and she became a key figure in the Messianic lineage.
- **David:**
Israel's greatest king, known for his heart for God. Though he sinned greatly, grace allowed him repentance and promised an eternal kingdom through his line.
- **Solomon:**
David's son, renowned for his wisdom. By God's grace, he built the first temple and penned Proverbs.
- **Elijah:**
A prophet during Israel's apostasy. Grace protected him from Ahab and Jezebel and took him to heaven in a fiery chariot.



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- **Jonah:**
A prophet God sent to Nineveh but he fled instead. By grace, though, God saved him from a giant fish, and he eventually brought revival to Nineveh.
- **Isaiah:**
Major prophet in Judah. Through grace, he saw visions of the Messiah and prophesied about Christ's redemptive work.
- **Jeremiah:**
Known as the "weeping prophet." Despite immense opposition, God's grace sustained him as he delivered messages of both judgment and hope.
- **Daniel:**
A young Jew in Babylonian exile. Through divine grace, he interpreted dreams, remained unharmed in a lion's den, and received prophetic visions.
- **Esther:**
A Jewish orphan who became Persian queen. Grace positioned her to save her people from extermination.
- **The Samaritan Woman:**
Jesus met her at a well with a tarnished reputation. Grace turned her encounter with Jesus into a life-altering revelation, making her an evangelist to her people. "Here there is a man who knows everything about me!"
- **Zacchaeus:**
A despised tax collector in Jericho. Grace led Jesus to his home, transforming him from a greedy man to a generous believer.
- **Matthew:**
A tax collector despised by the Jews.
Grace called him to be a disciple, and he wrote the Gospel of Matthew.
- **Thomas:**
One of the twelve apostles, known for his doubts. Grace led him to a personal encounter with the risen Christ, affirming his faith.
- **Peter:**
One of Jesus' closest disciples. Despite denying Jesus three times, grace restored him, making him a foundational apostle in the early church.
- **Paul:**
Initially a persecutor of Christians. By God's grace, he was transformed into a devout evangelist and prolific New Testament writer.
- **Mary Magdalene:**
Once possessed by seven demons. Grace delivered her, making her the first witness of the resurrected Christ.



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- **Lazarus:**
A friend of Jesus who died and was in the tomb for four days. By Jesus' grace, he was raised from the dead, showcasing Christ's power over death.
- **The Thief on the Cross:**
A condemned man crucified next to Jesus.
Through grace, he recognized Jesus as Lord and was promised paradise, and we will see him there!

[TRANSITION]

And then, many, many, MANY years later...

- A man, an atheist, would pick up this book (holds up Bible) with the worst of intentions in his heart...
- You see, this man wanted to learn ***enough about the bible*** that he could go toe-to-toe with these "Stupid Christians," so that he could make them see how brainwashed they were, so that he could mock them.
- BUT, then, an amazing thing happened – **God happened.**
- Thorough **Grace alone**, that man was met by God through this book!
- He learned about a **Jesus** who loved him, so much **that he would die** for his sins, even though he didn't deserve such unfathomable love.
- And do you know that this **prideful, stubborn** man surrendered to the miraculous work of the **Holy Spirit** in his heart.
- He joined a **little church**, *right here in Georgia*, where he **confessed faith in Jesus**. And one day he and his wife were baptized together in that very church, where he served with great joy. Where his children would be baptized.
- Then later, after many trials, this man was ordained by this very church.



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- And this man stands in front of **you** today, delivering this message, so that **you** may be encouraged to know that **only by the Grace of God** could such a **transformation** take place!
- ***I say these things to you in all humility - Only through the transformative power of God's beautiful, awesome, amazing, unmerited Grace could a dark, sinful heart like mine be changed!***
- ***To be less like me and to be more like Him.***

[REINFORCE MAIN POINT]

- You see family, **God's unearned grace drives salvation, election, and genuine good works.**
- **Romans 15:13**
"May the **God of hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace in believing**, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you **may abound in hope.**"
- Here's the happy ending, family - our hope is firmly rooted in **Jesus, who is our ultimate source of Grace.**
- Remember, Church, that **our call**, that we read here in Romans, is to live in full joy and hope, knowing that **God's grace surrounds and sustains us.**
- **Can we encourage one-another to this?!**

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

- ☐ God's grace is a thread woven from Genesis to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice.
- ☐ We talked about the transformative power of this grace, turning disbelief into profound faith.
- ☐ **Believer's baptism** signifies a personal and conscious commitment to Jesus.
- ☐ This baptism is a testament to the transforming grace we've experienced.
- ☐ As we come to the Lord's table, it's a time of remembrance and gratitude.
- ☐ Those baptized through Jesus' grace are warmly invited to partake in communion.
- ☐ Together, let's celebrate the boundless grace and sacrifice of our Savior.



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By Pastor Bill Alderson - 10/15/2023

[BENEDICTION]

☐ Go now:

- in the name of the Father who has bestowed unearned grace upon us from the beginning of time.
- In the name of the Son who became the embodiment of grace and offers us hope
- And in the name of the Holy Spirit who continually reminds us of this grace, empowering us to extend it to others.