

**In Past Time**  
(re-visiting Eph. 2:8-9)

The previous episode was entitled *Not Because Of What You Do, But Because Of Who You Are*.

We discovered it is nothing we **DO** that gets us saved, gets us blessed, gets us healed, or gets us rewards.

It is **WHO** we are.

And we are **who** we are not because of **what** we do.

We are **who** we are because of what **Jesus** has done.

And we are **who** we are only because we have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 10:9-10

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you **believe** and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved” (NIV).

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

We are saved by grace. But not by our grace.

We are saved through faith. But not through our faith.

Grace and faith are not of us. We discovered in the previous episode grace and faith are of Jesus Christ.

And grace and faith are God’s gifts.

I would like to suggest listening to the previous episode so you can get a better understanding of God's gifts in this verse.

We also discovered in the Eph. 2:8 verse "**this** is not from yourselves" **is** referring to salvation.

We cannot save ourselves. Salvation is of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since it is not of ourselves we have nothing to boast about.

It is interesting the Holy Spirit, through Paul, says in vs. 8 "it is by grace you have been saved", and the Holy Spirit also says in vs 5, "it is by grace you have been saved".

And since vs. 5 comes before vs. 8 the Holy Spirit was repeating Himself.

And if the Spirit repeats Himself it must be something very important. He wants to **ensure** we know that something.

So we're saved by grace - vs 5. And we're saved by grace - vs 8.

Since we said we're saved, we can move on?

We can but the question is: Do we understand what "saved" means?

What is there to understand other than we **are** saved?

Well since the Spirit repeats a **very** important truth, He must **really** want us to understand it. And to **fully** understand it.

So it makes sense for us to have a closer look, a more in depth look, at vss. 5 and 8.

We don't want to miss anything.

Eph. 2 starting with vs. 4 and then we'll read vs. 5.

"But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you **have been** saved."

Now Eph. 2:8 “For it is by grace you **have been** saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—”

Both verses are from the NIV. Notice they both say, “you **have been** saved”.

I did some checking: in one bible program on my iPad, there are 22 translations that say, “you **have been** saved”.

But I **also** found eleven versions that say, “you **are** saved”.

And I found two that say it a little different than those 33 versions.

You might wonder, “Which one is right? Is it we **have been** saved or is it we **are** saved?”

Just so we understand, the translations that say “you **HAVE BEEN** saved” are using the past tense. “**Have been**”.

And those translations are correct.

So the other translations are wrong then?

The ones saying, “you **ARE** saved” are using the present tense.

And **they** are also correct.

**What?** Wait now, how can both of them be correct?

That’s a good question.

One of them must be wrong, right?

Another good question.

How can we figure out **which** one is right? And how can we figure out **which** one is wrong?

Actually that's very easy. All we have to do is look at the Greek word for "saved". And then look at the Greek verb tense for "saved".

You might remember in the previous episode when I quoted Eph. 2:8-9 I said, and I quote, "when I read this verse in the Expanded Translation I left out two short phrases. I did that on purpose because we will be covering these in depth in the next podcast". Unquote.

Well, these two phrases are a **very** important part of this teaching. They are a revelation the Lord **wants** us to know about.

To understand the Greek word and the Greek tense I'm going to be quoting the Strong's Concordance. It is widely known and trusted.

Now, if you think I might be missing something, or leaving something out, please check it for yourself.

The Greek word for "saved" in vs. 5 and vs. 8 is Strong's number 4982 (σώζω sozo). It's pronounced 'sode'-zo'. 'sode-zo'.

It means, "to save, to keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment".

That probably covers what we would expect "saved" to mean.

So that's good. But **now** we need to look at the **tense** of the verb. Is it the past tense, "**have been** saved" or is it the present tense, "**are** saved"?

In both verses the verb tense is what is called the Perfect tense.

Quoting Strong's: "The perfect tense in Greek corresponds to the perfect tense in English, and describes an action which is viewed as having been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be repeated."

Let me read that again: "The perfect tense in Greek corresponds to the perfect tense in English, and describes an action which is viewed as **having been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be repeated.**"

Okay, finishing the quote: “Jesus’ last cry from the cross, TETELESTAI (meaning ‘It is finished!’) is a good example of the perfect tense used in this sense, namely ‘It [the atonement] has been accomplished, completely, once and for all time.’” Unquote.

So the perfect tense means something happened **ONCE** in the past and **DOES NOT** need to be repeated. Something has been accomplished, **COMPLETELY**, once and for all time.

Now what Strong’s Concordance call the “**voice**” of the verb is called the Passive Voice.

I quote, “The passive voice represents the subject as being the recipient of the action. E.g., in the sentence, ‘The boy was hit **by** the ball,’ The boy **receives** the action. The boy didn’t **DO** the action”.

It is exactly the same for us: we didn’t **DO** the action that **got** us saved. **Jesus** did the action. We **received** the action.

That is pretty dramatic. But **how** does this relate to salvation, to being saved?

Are you ready for the answer? This is going to surprise you. This **is** a real eye opener, a real revelation from the Lord.

The Perfect Tense is saying “you **HAVE BEEN SAVED**” and it is also saying “you **ARE SAVED**”.

The perfect tense describes an action which is viewed as **having been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be repeated.**”

This covers **exactly** what all 33 translations are saying.

That’s why I said the **past** tense and the **present** tense were **both** correct.

Remember I said I found two **other** translations that express vs 5 and 8 a little differently?

The first example is the New English Translation - its a very studious type of bible:

“by grace you are saved!” Nothing different there.

But the explanatory note says, “The perfect tense (there it is again) the perfect tense in the Greek connotes both **completed** action (“you **have been** saved”) and **continuing** results (“you **are** saved”). Unquote.

The perfect tense in the Greek covers both a completed action and the continuing results.

The second example is The Expanded Translation. That’s a translation by a Moody Bible Institute professor of Greek. He uses as many English words as necessary to bring out the full meaning **of** the Greek.

And the Expanded Translation is **not** a paraphrased and it’s **not** an amplified version. It **is** a highly accurate translation.

It says, “by grace **have you been** saved completely in past time, with the present result that **you are in** a state of salvation which persists **through present time**”.

Hmm, think I better repeat that...and repeat it slowly.

“by grace **have you been** saved completely **in past time**, with the **present** result that **you are** in a state of salvation which persists **through present time**”.

Both bible examples are saying **exactly** the same thing as the Greek verb tense does.

We **have been saved** in past time and **we are saved** in present time.

And **being** saved does not stop in the present. It **continues** into the future.

And it does not stop in the future.

What we are learning now is not a doctrine. It’s not a church position. It is what the Holy Spirit said **through** Paul **to** the Ephesians.

And the Holy Spirit is saying it **to** you and He's saying it **to** me!

“But what if I have trouble? What if I cannot **keep** my salvation?”

That's a very good question.

Let me answer by asking you another good question.

What did **YOU** do to get saved, to obtain salvation?

You know the answer to that.

One more time, Eph. 2:8-9

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and **this** is not from yourselves, **it** is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Is grace by which we've been saved of us? No.

Is it through our faith we have been saved? No.

What does “**this** is not from yourselves” refer to?

And what does “**it** is of God” refer to?

Salvation. Both “this” and “it” refer to salvation.

And salvation **is** the gift of God. We learned that in the last episode.

And since God gives us **His** gift in the **past** and **His** gift persists through the **present**, you **ARE NOT** going to have trouble **keeping** your salvation.

Why not?

Because it is not **yours** to lose; it is God's to give **to** you and it is God's **to** keep.

This might be new to you. This may sound like something you have never heard before.

But please remember, I am not giving you **my** opinion. I am not giving you **my** teaching.

All we are doing is reading God's truth. And we are looking at the relevant Greek language that the New Testament was written in. So we can see what the Greek truly means.

And what we are **finding** is what God is really **saying**.

What our English language sometimes has trouble communicating.

This puts us in a place where we are faced with having to make an important decision.

Are we going to **accept** what God is telling us?

Are we willing to accept what God is telling us?

Or do we continue believing what is **not** a good understanding of what God **has** done and what God **has** said?

I faced this same choice a number of years ago.

I accepted what God has done. I accepted what God has said.

And it has brought freedom to me.

Why? Because I came to realize I do not **have** to perform in order to **get** God's salvation.

I do not **have** to perform to **keep** God's salvation.

All I had to do was believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

I did that in the past. And I **have been** saved in the past.

And I am **still** saved in the present. His salvation does not **leave** me and His salvation will **never** be taken away from me.

Why not?

Jude 24 says, “To him who is **able** to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—”

Who is able to keep me from falling? Jesus.

Who is going to present me without fault and with great joy? Jesus.

Ephesians 5:27 “and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, **without** stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless”.

I’m part of the Church. Who will present me to Himself? Jesus.

Finally, Colossians 1:22 “But now He **has** reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to **present** you holy in His sight, **without** blemish and **free** from accusation”.

Who has reconciled me? Jesus.

Who will present me holy in His sight? Jesus.

Who will present me without blemish and free from accusation? Jesus.

Eph. 2:5 & 8 “It is by grace **I have been** saved completely **in past** time, with the **present** result that **I am** in a state of salvation which persists **through** present time”.

“It is by grace **you have been** saved completely **in past time**, with the **present** result that **you are** in a state of salvation which persists **through present time**”.

In Past Time Jesus paid the ultimate price.

In Past Time Jesus offered us salvation and eternal life.

In Past Time Jesus saved us completely and He promised His salvation would continue **through** the present time and **into** the future.

We **were** saved In Past Time.

We **are** saved In Present Time.

We **will still be** saved In Future Time.

All because our salvation depends on Jesus.

It does not depend on us.

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