

By Grace Alone

It's all about God's grace. This important theme developed out of the Reformation as the Latin phrase "*Sola Gratia*" and refined our understanding of salvation, clarifying that scripture teaches us it is only by God's grace that we have faith and are saved through Christ. Better understand this important gospel of grace by studying the scripture passages that support it and discuss what it means for how we live our lives once we receive it.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How do you define and explain grace?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to give grace? What about receiving it? Why?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [By Grace Alone](#)

READ [Ephesians 2:1-9](#), [Romans 6:1-4](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why do you think we are tempted to add our own good works to grace in order to achieve our salvation? As an example, host Scott Hoezee notes the heretical quip "God did his best, you do the rest." Why do you think such thinking persists and what might we need to change to help us recognize and affirm that we believe in salvation by grace alone?
- Read [Romans 6:1-4](#), reflect on it, and then write it down in your own words. If salvation is by grace alone, why do we live morally?
- Where in your life do you see evidence of a life transformed by grace? Where do you still struggle with a desire to sin and need God's continued grace to transform you?
- Read and reflect on this quote from N.T. Wright's reflection on [Ephesians 2:8-10](#) in his commentary *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters*: "*Often, today, people don't believe there's much wrong with the human race, and with themselves in particular. As a result, they don't see very much need for God's grace. Perhaps, they think, God might help me out in a tight corner here or there, but basically I can get along fine without him. All that God then has to offer, it seems, is a kind of spiritual enhancement of ordinary life, a gentle enrichment of what's already there rather than a radical rescue from imminent disaster*" (p22). Where have you encountered evidence of this underlying belief about God and his relationship with humanity?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Galatians 2:19-21](#), [John 3:16-17](#), [Galatians 5](#)

CONCLUSION

Write a letter to God. Include any emotions, reactions, questions, or thoughts that were stirred in you by the above reflections. Let this letter be part of an ongoing conversation with God. Pull it out every couple of days throughout the week and ask yourself: What is God revealing to you in your conversations? Where do you continue to see and feel the effects of God's gift of salvation by grace in your life?

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/by-grace-alone>

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