

The Glorious Gospel of Grace and Works

Genesis 6:1-22; 7:1,16

Matthew 24:3-14, 36-39

James 2:14-26



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Pressing Forward toward Our Goals

- Disciples Grow in Knowledge (2 Peter 3:17-18)
- Disciples Read, Study, Memorize, & Meditate (1 Timothy 4:13-15)
- Either you are GROWING or you are DRIFTING away. (Hebrews 2:1)

Where We Have Been

- The unfolding of God's eternal plan.
- **Pictures, pictures, pictures**
- Adam and Eve
- Cain and Abel.
- The Long-Suffering of God.
- The Sinfulness of Man.

Not A Sunday School Lesson (Romans 11:33)

Saved by Grace UNTO Works

- Ephesians 2:8-10
- James 2:14-26

And Then There Was Noah (Genesis 6:1-8)

- (Romans 11:22) KNOW the goodness and severity of God.
- (Genesis 6:5) Despite God's goodness man sinned more and more.
 - Man's wickedness was **GREAT**.
 - Every **INTENT** of every **THOUGHT** of his heart
 - Was **ONLY EVIL**
 - **CONTINUALLY**.
- (Genesis 6:12) The earth was **full** of violence.
- Comment: God "regretted" that He had created man! (1 Samuel 15:29)
- (Genesis 6:7) "**I will destroy man . . .**" - His long-suffering will come to an end and yet He gives man another 120 years.
- (Genesis 6:8) **BUT NOAH** found (PERFECT MOOD) grace in the eyes of the LORD. (Remember Ephesians 2:8-9)
- (Genesis 6:9) Noah was a righteous man (1 John 2:29; 3:6-10; Luke 4:4); "perfect" (mature, integrity, undefiled) (Matthew 5:28; Philippians 3:9-15; Colossians 4:12) **in his generation**.

- (Genesis 6:9) **Noah walked with God in his generation!** (Genesis 6:9; **5:24**; Micah 6:8; Genesis 17:1; Deut 10:12-13; Col 1:10; 1 Thess 4:1-2; Matt 11:29-30) GRACE walks with God in His ways along His path. (Psa 119:35)
- (Genesis 6:14-15) God's plan for Noah's salvation - the ARK!

QUESTION for SERIOUS MEDITATION

Was Noah saved from God's judgment by building the Ark?

Noah: A Picture of Christ

The Ark: A Picture of Christ

- Christ, like the Ark, was God's only safety from God's judgment.
- Salvation in Christ and the Ark were designed completely by God.
- Only ONE DOOR/WAY. (John 10:1-9; 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- No oars, sails, rudders - God brings them to His resting place. (Prov 3:5-7)
- ALL those "in the ARK" were given life.
- ALL those "outside the ARK" died!
- ALL those "in Christ" shall live forever with God. (Rom 6:23; 1 John 5:11-12)
- ALL those "outside Christ" suffer eternal damnation.
- The "ARK" took ALL of God's judgment.
- Christ drank the cup of God's wrath for us! (Matthew 26:39, 42)
- (Genesis 6:14) "pitch" - root: "atonement"; "satisfaction"; "ransom"; "mercy seat"

Learning from Noah's Faith (Hebrews 11:7)

- Noah is also a picture of a man/woman of saving faith.
- Noah believed God. (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:20-25; Galatians 3:6-14)
- He was warned of coming judgment. (Matt 3:7; Rev 6:16-17)
- His warning included things not yet seen. (Hebrews 11:1,7)
- He feared the Lord - the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10) He took God seriously!
- He condemned the world by his works. (1 John 3:12)
- He inherited righteousness showing that his righteousness was not sufficient. (Philippians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:6; 5:5)
- He obeyed God's commandments and built the Ark. He obeyed and worked. (1 John 5:3; 2:3-4; Luke 4:4)
- **Did Noah's works save him?** (Philippians 2:12-13; James 2:14-26)
- God given-GRACE (Ephesians 2:4-5) and God given-FAITH (Ephesians 2:8-9) **always** give evidence in repentance, obedience and works.
- Noah did all that God had commanded Him and Noah was saved. **He did the will of God.** (Genesis 6:22; 7:5; Matthew 7:21)

Free Salvation that Works (Philippians 2:12-13)

- Work out (PRESENT; MIDDLE VOICE; IMPERATIVE) your own salvation.
- **GOD's FAITH always works.** (James 2:14-26) Without works no one is saved! God's faith leads to obedience.
- The family of God (those who have been born-again) DO the will of God - they obey Him. (Mark 3:32-35; Matthew 12:50; 1 John 5:1-3)
- God saves us to do works that He has foreordained. (Ephesians 2:10)
- Those who do not DO what God says will not be allowed into heaven. (Matthew 7:21-23)
- The children of God do not practice sin but practice righteousness. (1 Jn 3:1-10)
- We receive answers to prayers when we obey. (1 John 3:22)
- Only those who keep the Word of God are BLESSED. (Luke 11:28)
- Only those who ENDURE to the end are saved. (Matt 24:12-13)

Does Salvation Cost? (Luke 14:28, 33)

- What did it, his salvation from God's judgment, cost Noah?
- TIME. Nothing was more important than his salvation. (Eph 5:15-17; Gal 6:10)
- REPUTATION. Many would ridicule and mock him. (2 Peter 3:1-7)
- DILIGENCE. (Genesis 6:22) No short-cuts. No ignoring the details.
- His WISDOM. His wisdom was sufficient for the task. (James 1:5; Prov 3:5-7)
- His OBEDIENCE. Everything had to be done as God instructed. Anything less would mean no salvation. MEDITATE! (Jeremiah 6:16; Luke 6:46)
- HARD WORK. The work was not easy. (Matthew 7:13-14; Acts 14:22)
- CONTINUOUS/PERSEVERANCE. No breaks or vacations for 120 years. (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Luke 14:28-30; Hebrews 6:11; Romans 2:7)
- MONEY/LIFE. Willingness to give all that he had so that he might be saved. (Luke 14:33; Mark 10:17-21; 1 John 3:16)

Examining Ourselves in Light of What God's Says

- What is more important to you than your and your family's salvation?
- We make time for what we think is important.
- Our salvation takes much instruction. Are you a serious student of God's Word (Wisdom)?
- Being a Christian takes WORK. What is WORK? What ever God commands. Work is OBEDIENCE to God's commands. No obedience means no salvation. Faith, grace and works always **go together**. (James 2:14-26)
- Only those who persevere to the very end will be saved. (Matthew 24:13; Luke 9:23) We are to follow/obey Christ daily. (Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4)
- The way is HARD. (Matthew 7:13-14; Heb 6:11-12) First, the cross (Luke 9:23); THEN the crown. (Luke 13:24 - "Strive") - No cross means no crown.
- God's long-suffering will end and then the "door will be shut"! (Luke 13:25-27; Matthew 25:10; Revelation 3:7)

- Noah listened and believed God's warnings. He took God seriously. **Christ has warned us.** (Luke 13:22-30; 17:26-27)
- Our walk, not our talk, shows who we really are. (Col 1:10-11; Eph 4:1)
- Following Christ will cost us EVERYTHING! (Luke 14:33)
- Following Christ will cost us our REPUTATION. (Matt 5:10-12; John 15:18-22; 1 John 3:13; Matthew 10:22)
- Following Christ takes DILIGENCE in keeping His Word. (Hebrews 6:11-12)
- We are commanded to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling." And by God working in me to will and do His good pleasure I can do all things through Christ. (Philip. 2:12-13; 4:13)

Does "My" Faith . . .

- Motivate me to continually examine myself/my faith. (2 Cor 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10)
- Motivate me to obey God's commandments. (1 John 2:3-4; 5:3)
- Motivate me to grow as a disciple as God commands. (2 Peter 3:17-18)
- Motivate me to live my life on **every** word that comes from the mouth of God. (Luke 4:4)
- Motivate me to serve and grow in His Body in a local church. (1 Cor 12:12-27)
- Motivate me to study, memorize, meditate on His Word. (Psalm 1:1-3)
- Motivate me to pray privately and collectively with others. (Luke 18:1; Colossians 4:2; Romans 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 2:42)
- Motivate me to "do the will of the Father." (Matthew 7:21-29)
- Motivate me to be "fully pleasing in God's sight". (Colossians 1:10-11)

A Final Warning (Romans 15:14; Matthew 24:26-39; Luke 13:23-27)

- The days of Noah are a picture for the coming of the Son of Man. (Luke 17:26-27; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)
- A great apostasy (falling away) is promised! (Matt 24:1-24, 12; 2 Thess 2:3)
- We are living in these day - eating , drinking, marrying, with no concern of God's coming judgment. See Zephaniah 1:12.
- Scripture is full of peoples ignoring God's warnings of coming judgment - Sodom and Gomorrah, Jerusalem, etc. (Gen 18-19; 2 Chronicles 36:14-17)
- The day and hour no one knows but it is certain but it will come! (Matt 24:36; 25:13; Acts 1:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)
- (Luke 13:24) **Therefore**, "Strive to enter the narrow gate"
- (Luke 13:25-27) There is coming a time when the DOOR will be closed and it will be too late. (Revelation 3:7)
- The wrath of God abides on all who do not take God seriously. (John 3:36)
- A "faith" without works/obedience will not save you. (James 2:14-26)
- Flee the wrath to come! (Matthew 3:7; Revelation 6:16-17)
- The ONLY REFUGE from GOD's WRATH is becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Luke 9:23)