

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – July 16, 2023

Theme: Romans: The Power of God at Work in Us **Topic:** Saved by Grace

Main Text: Romans 11:1-24

Key verse: Ephesians 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” (NIV).

INTRODUCTION: Earlier in the quarter, we had looked at the righteousness of God and the power of faith in salvation (Romans 10:1-12; 13-21, respectively). A key subject addressed in our text today is that of grace. Grace has been defined as undeserved, unmerited favor. According to Ephesians 2:8, the grace of salvation is obtained not by works of righteousness, but by undeserved and unmerited favor. Romans 4:4-5 further emphasizes this truth about grace by saying that God justifies people who receive salvation by faith—not people who give it their best effort. If they are justified in any part based on what they do, they are receiving wages, not a gift. If grace is based on works to any degree, then it is not grace (Romans 11:6).

1. (a) It has been said that grace undergirds all of God’s dealing with man. How does Romans 11:1-24 buttress this point? Read Romans 4:4-5 and 11:6. (b) How would you use these passages to explain the truth that salvation is not by a mixture of God’s grace and our good works? (c) What else does Romans 11:8 teach us about being saved by grace?

Grace undergirds all of God’s dealing with man. We are saved by God’s grace, meaning that the work is God’s, not ours. (Romans 4:4–5). Like Romans 11:7-8 implies, even the very desire to come to God is God’s grace at work to save us. That is why the Psalmist stated emphatically that “*Salvation belongs to the LORD*” (Psalm 3:8 ESV). We know all these until life happens, and we begin to wonder if God has forsaken us (His people). And the answer to such contemplation is “*Certainly not*” (Romans 11:1 NKJV). Using Prophet Elijah as an example (1 Kings 19:14-18), Apostle Paul shows how, as Christians, we sometimes feel when we find ourselves in challenging and difficult situations. At such times, we begin to think that we are alone and forsaken by God.

2. (a). In Romans 11:4, God said to Elijah, “*I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.*” What do you make of God’s response considering the topic? (b) Romans 11:7-8 speaks of God hardening some people and enabling some others to obtain His favor. How do you understand grace and being saved by grace in that scenario?

Salvation to the Gentiles was made possible by grace. In the Old Testament, God was exclusively for the Jews. Similarly, when Jesus was starting His ministry, He instructed His disciples to go only to the “lost sheep of Israel” – the Jews (see Matthew 10:5-6). This appeared to reinforce that belief that the Gentiles had no place even in salvation through Christ, and possibly led to the discrimination the Gentile believers suffered in the early days of the Church (See Acts 8:1). But the table soon turned – Apostle Paul got fed up with the resistance of his fellow Jews, and said to them, “... *From now on I will go to the Gentiles.*” (Acts 18:6). And soon, the gospel began to spread among the Gentiles. It was like God had rejected the Jews and favoring the Gentiles. But being aware of the dangers of feeling special, he now warns the Gentile believers not to think highly of themselves (Romans 11:19-21).

3. (a) “God’s grace is both kind and severe.” (Romans 11:22a). What does this tell us about salvation by grace and the attitude of some that suggests that being saved by grace is a license for careless living? (b) What admonitions do we as believers, get from Romans 11:17-21 concerning how we should conduct ourselves to prove that our salvation is by grace? (c) What key lesson have you learnt today about the subject of ‘Saved by Grace’?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You that I can access salvation, not by my works of righteousness but by Your grace alone. Let my understanding of this grace help me to be yielded more to You. Amen.