

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – February 11, 2024**

**Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith. Topic: Grace, Faith and Works**

**Text: Ephesians 2:1-10.**

**Key verse:** Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Today we continue in our Quarter Theme of *The Foundation of the Christian Faith* as we look at terms that have sometimes confused many Christians – grace, faith and works - and how they relate. Ephesians 2:1-10 can be summarised into three parts: i) man’s fallen condition, ii) God’s kindness to man in his fallen condition, and iii) God’s designed way for man’s salvation. First, let’s look at the condition of man. Because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, every man born of a woman comes into the world already a sinner. Man is therefore not a sinner because he has committed any known sin, but because it is in his “nature”. Sin is in his genes – it is his make-up; it is in him because of where he is coming from, it is in his blood. Now because of this fallen nature, man is by nature doomed. In other words, the default position of every human life is that we are under God’s wrath and punishment (see vs 3). It is at this point of man’s fallen state that grace steps in.

**1. (a) How do you view society’s idea about a child being termed “innocent” considering the scriptural position that every man born of the flesh is by nature a sinner? (b) If society’s view in (a) above is faulty, is there anything the Christian can do to correct this? How? (c) Read Eph. 2:4 – 6 and discuss in-depth the subject of grace.**

The next term to consider is “faith”. In simple terms, faith is a strong belief, complete trust, and confidence in something or someone. Biblically, it is the *assurance* of things *hoped for*, the *conviction* of things *not seen* (Heb 11:1). Some words in this definition have been stressed to bring out the meaning of faith: that there is certainty and deep conviction **now** about something that the eye cannot see now. The object of the assurance and conviction is still **futuristic**, and yet that assurance and conviction is so strong it is as if it has happened already. God speaking to Abram regarding his servant Eliezer assured that “*This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir. And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness* (Gen 15:4-6). Here we see Abram holding on to God’s promise so tenaciously as if the promise had already been fulfilled, even though circumstances around him suggested otherwise. God’s plan for our salvation, after the fall, is through faith in His only begotten Son. Faith in Jesus Christ is our only way of salvation and Apostle Paul says it is by grace, a gift of God, and that none of us should boast about it (vs 8-9).

**2. (a) What is that object of our assurance and conviction that is futuristic? (2) How can we as Christians demonstrate today that we are saved, even though the consummation of our salvation is something that’s still in the future? (3) Are there past experiences in your life that you can share to help other participants build up their faith in God?**

An area in today’s topic that causes a lot of confusion for many Christians is the role of “works” when discussing the subject of salvation, which we’ve been told is freely given and is not to be boasted about. While the un-regenerated man would strive to “enter heaven” through good works, our lesson today clearly teaches that salvation is not to be obtained through works. Does this then mean that “works” have no place in our new, regenerated lives as Christians? Jesus once challenged the people of His day to “bring forth fruits meet for repentance” (Matt. 3:8). Once a person hears the gospel and gets convicted that his way of life is wrong, he must alter his present behavior and “so produce fruit that is consistent with repentance [demonstrating new behavior that proves a change of heart, and a conscious decision to turn away from sin]”.

**3. (a) Read Matthew 3:8 in the Amplified version of the Bible and discuss what Jesus meant by “bring forth fruits meet for repentance” (b) How can you help a believer who feels strongly about works as needed for salvation to understand the lesson for today properly?**

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**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for offering me a simple and affordable way of redemption. Without this free offer, there’s no way I could afford to pay for my salvation. Lord, help me to continue to live for You, bringing forth fruits that reflect my new life in You. Help me also to share the good news with others. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.