Intro: 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Two key verses in Ephesians are 2:8, 9 and 5:1.

• This chapter deals with the Christian believer’s life. From where they were, where they now, where they are going, and not to forget who you are. It will be in a 5-part series entitled “Remember”. This lesson is very short but it needs to be this way so you and I can grasp the concept of salvation by God’s grace, but through our faith in Christ. Note that this is one of our key verses of scripture for this book.

I. Salvation comes by the grace of God – 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

• This is one of the most talks about and famous passages of scripture in all the bible. This ranks up there with John 3:16. Everyone can quote it word for word and we have heard so many sermons preached on it by some great ministers. In fact, I know churches have used this for the security password for the alarm system. It is amazing what this passage has done for the lives of the saints.

a. We are saved by God’s Grace

• No one can love (agape) like God can, and no one can give us grace (khar'-ece) like God can. Yes, you may show some hints of agape love, and you may show some hints of khar’-ece grace like God, but you can never, and I mean never be as gracious as God is. When we talk about the grace of God shown to man and that this is a Triune God relationship, and you and I would never understand it to its fullest.

° 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one-man Jesus Christ abounded for many. Romans 5:15

b. We are saved by our faith in Christ

• The Grace of God can only come through God. Salvation comes by two parts meeting as one. God’s grace consists of the blood atonement that comes through the perfect Sacrifice, and your faith in the blood atonement in forgiving your sin debt. It is God’s grace through your faith in Christ that leads us to salvation.

° 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

c. We are not saved by our works

• There is not one thing, work, or good deed, you can do that will save you. Your works pale in comparison to Christ’s work on the cross, and God sees His work on the cross as the acceptable sacrifice for the atonement for sin, not you tainted sin.

° 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:11

d. Salvation comes by a gift from God

This means that:

1. Man can’t make God owe him – God, you owe me something for what I been through

2. Man can’t make God forgive him – God if you love me, you will forgive me no matter what

3. Man can’t make God love him – God has given out of love first which illuminates the possibility of our love being better than God’s

4. Man can’t negotiate God for his soul – If we had the power, we would negotiate our soul because it belonged to God first.

• Salvation is a free gift of God. It is by God’s grace only that we are saved. We can do nothing to save ourselves. We cannot earn it, win it, or even deserve it. All we can do is accept it by God’s grace and our faith in Him.

° 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:77-79

II. We are created to be good workers for Christ – 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

a. We are created in Christ

When we talk about being created in Christ what we are saying is:

1. That God has made us alive in the Spirit

° 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved Ephesians 2:5

2. That the believer has been born again

° 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ John 3:7

3. We have God’s divine nature in our hearts

° 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2 Peter 1:4

4. That we are new creatures in Christ Jesus

° 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

b. We are created to do good works

• God has purposed us for his good will to walk in good works. Not one good work will save you, but each good work will help you be strong and a better Christian for the glory of God

° 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22, 23