

# SO GREAT SALVATION

## Redemption And Restoration

TEXT:	John 3:1-21
KEY VERSE:	John 3:18; Hebrews 2:3

“How shall We escape if we neglect so great salvation;

which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and

was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”

-Hebrews 2: 3 (KJV)

## Part 1: Redemption

There is a TV show I enjoy watching, called, “Fixer Upper”. A carpenter, Chip Gaines, and his wife, Joanna, an interior designer, help folks find an old home and transform it. I have seen them take houses that looked like they should be pushed into a hole and renovate them into a beautiful dwelling.

### *That is Salvation!*

That is what God wants to do with our lives. He wants to take a life that **has been** pushed into a hole and renovate that life into a beautiful dwelling for his spirit, his presence.

Look:

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold the Tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’”

Then he who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new!’”

-Revelation 21: 3-5 (KJV)

That is how the renovation project ends.

Look at what David said:

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**” He also brought me out of a horrible pit,  
out of the miry clay,  
and set my feet up on a rock  
and established my steps. “**

**-Psalm 40: 2 (KJV)**

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So that is the plan, complete restoration. It begins with the purchase. The Bible calls it redemption. It means to buy back. Let us look carefully at how that is done; because the purchase must be done legally, or renovation can never occur.

## 1: You are Redeemed by Faith Alone. – Ephesians 2:8,9

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**“For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. “(KJV)**

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You are saved through faith.

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**“Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”  
They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved  
along with everyone in your household. “**

**Acts16: 30, 31 (NLT)**

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What do I do to be saved? Believe on Jesus - Faith.

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**“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.  
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world;**

but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth is not condemned: but he that believeth not

is condemned already; because he hath not believed

in the name of the only begotten son of God.

John 3:15 -18 (KJV)

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**Believe. Believe. Believe.** We are not condemned, and we receive eternal life by faith, by believing.

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“Be it known unto you, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus) is preached unto you

the forgiveness of sins:

and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which Ye could not be justified

by the law of Moses. “

Acts 13: 38, 39 (KJV parenthesis mine)

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Everyone who believes in Jesus is justified from everything that the law could not.

2: It Has Always Been That Way. Romans 4: 3

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“For the scriptures tell us, ‘Abraham believed God,

and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.

Romans 4: 3 (NLT)

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Abraham was justified by faith in the same gospel you and I heard. Look:

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“The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the gentiles by faith,

preached the gospel beforehand unto Abraham,

saying In thee shall all the nations be blessed. “

- Galatians 3: 8 (ASV)

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\*David too! look:

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**“But to him that worketh not, but believeth**

**on him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**

**Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God**

**imputeth righteousness without works,**

**saying, ‘blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven,**

**and whose sins are covered.**

**Bless it is the man to whom the Lord WILL NOT IMPUTE SIN.”**

**Romans 4: 5-8 (KJV emphasis mine)**

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Good works of the law **never** justified **anyone** before God. It has always been by faith in the savior; coming or came.

That was what the birthright was about. The bloodline of the coming Messiah would follow the eldest son . This was explained to the children of every Jewish family. Abraham received the promise and believed. He taught Isaac. He taught Esau. Esau despised his birthright; he despised the gospel of Yeshua Ha’Mashiak<sup>1</sup>.

He rejected Jesus Christ, for a bowl of lentils!

### 3: Redemption is an Internal, Irrevocable, Blood Sworn, Covenant. 1 Peter 1: 18

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**“For as much as you know that **you were not redeemed with corruptible things,****

**as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;**

**but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: “(KJV)**

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Perfect redemption was the perfect plan of God; that you and I would stand perfectly righteous in God's sight.

His plan was founded on a blood sworn covenant. The only way blood covenant can be broken is death. To break this covenant, sworn in the blood of Jesus; God would have to cease to exist!

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 25:21-34

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"But this is the **\*new covenant** I will make with the people of Israel after those days, 'says the Lord,

**'I will put my instructions deep within them, And I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

**And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying,**

**'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest,**

**will know me already, 'says the Lord, 'And I will forgive their wickedness,**

**And I will never again remember their sins. '"**

**Jeremiah 31: 33, 34 (NLT)**

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*(\*This is where the term, "New Testament "originates. It is this "New Covenant ", sworn in Jesus' own blood.)*

**READ: Hebrews 8**

Notice that God makes this new covenant, without the involvement or participation of men. "This is the new covenant I WILL MAKE." This covenant is the fulfillment of the covenant made with Abraham. It is the end of the covenant made with Israel - the law. (8: 13)

God put Abraham to sleep, walked through the blood of the covenant, and said, "Now, this is what I am **going to do** for you. *You* are just going to trust me, and rest in my work. Jesus declared this covenant finished, took his own blood to the altar in heaven, and said, "Now, this is what I **have done** for you. So, now there is a rest for the people of God that will remain. Whoever enters that rest can stop working to try to please God." That rest comes to those who believe. It comes by faith. (Hebrews 4:9)

**READ: John 3**

Nicodemus did not get it. "How can these things be?" It's just too simple for religious minds to understand! All that religious intelligence shorts out the grey matter when it encounters the simple truth of God's plan to restore us to himself. Mankind stumbles at accepting that something as enormous as peace with our creator could be gained apart from merit. "Surely, we must DO something! "

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**"For God so love the world,**

**that he gave his only begotten son,**

**that whosoever believeth in him**

**should not perish, but have everlasting life. "**

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## SONGS OF

These religious leaders knew EXACTLY who Jesus was, and still rejected him.

Matthew 2:1-6

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## DELIVERANCE

### John 3: 16 (KJV)

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That verse is so simple, it is the first one we teach to our children. And they just believe it! Jesus said it. Why would **ANYONE** doubt?

...but religious leaders **do**...

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**"Are you a \*teacher of Israel and don't know these things?" (\*"master" KJV)**

### John 3:18 (HCSB)

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...Then, doubting teachers teach others to doubt.

Jesus warned about these teachers:

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**"Beware of false prophets**

**Which come to you in sheep's clothing,**

**But inwardly they are ravening wolves."**

### Matthew 7:15 (KJV)

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1. They are false.
2. They look like **true** sheep.
3. They devour with a voracious appetite.

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**"By their fruit ye shall know them."**

### Matthew 7:20 (KJV)

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Nicodemus was a master, a teacher in Israel. In modern terminology, he had his Master of Divinity degree in Old Covenant Law. He might have received his instruction from the very scribes and Pharisees who searched the scriptures for Herod, in Matthew chapter 2. These religious leaders knew exactly who Jesus was, and still rejected him. They were the same ones who constantly opposed Jesus as he ministered the mercy of God to people in need. (Matthew 2: 1 -6)

***Pharisees do the same today.***

They condemn the simple grace of God to impose their religious obligations on people. It is their fruit - what they produce - that exposes them. Their followers live in constant fear of God's wrath, because they fall short of those obligations. Paul said it thus:

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**“But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under a curse,**

**for the scriptures say<sup>2</sup>, ‘cursed is everyone who does not observe**

**and obey all the commands that are written in God's book of the law. ”**

**Galatians 3: 10 (NLT)**

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But this is what God says ...

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**“Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith,**

**we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.**

**Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege**

**where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. ”**

**Romans 5: 1, 2 (NLT)**

**“For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God,**

**and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ”**

**Romans 10: 10 (NLT)**

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There it is again; righteousness - rightness with God - is accounted to you when you believe, like Abraham and David. Openly declaring your faith - confessing with your mouth - results in Salvation.

**That** is Part 2 ...

## Part 2: Restoration

Salvation is an enormous word! The Bible uses the term “eternal life”. It is the Greek word, “Zoe”. It means “the life of God”. It is all that life is to God himself. It is different from “everlasting life”, as Salvation is different from

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<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 27:26

redemption. It is bigger. Zoe is everlasting; But it is also no condemnation<sup>3</sup>, peace with God<sup>4</sup>, deliverance from sin<sup>5</sup>, the blessing of Abraham<sup>6</sup>, healing<sup>7</sup>, abundance and prosperity<sup>8</sup>.

"Salvation" is the entire process that brings you and me to "zoe" - Eternal life. When we believe in Jesus (His death, burial, and resurrection that purchased our redemption) we have all of everlasting life. (John 3: 16)

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**"Most assuredly, I say to you, He who hears my word,**

**and believes in him who sent me has everlasting life,**

**and shall not come into\* judgment,**

**But has passed from death into life. "**

**John 5: 24 (NKJV - "condemnation" - KJV)**

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When you believe the word - the gospel - of Jesus, you believe the father also. You have everlasting life. you will not, in the future, come into condemnation - **ever**. Why? You are passed from death to life. You have departed from death. But look at John 3:15. God did not forget that he already said this and repeat himself. This is different on purpose. "That whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal** life." - John 3: 15 (NKJV Emphasis mine) Faith gives you **both**; life that never ends, and God-quality life that never ends.

Would you **want** to live forever, sick, and poor, and miserable, and stressed?

There's a name for that – HELL!

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**"For he has rescued us from the Kingdom of darkness**

**and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear son,**

**who purchased our freedom, and forgave our sins. "**

**Colossians 1: 13, 14 (NLT)**

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Now watch this:

All of Salvation and all of eternal life are ours (Redemption), but there is a process to receiving the full benefits of the free gift, purchased by Jesus' blood (Salvation).

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 8:1

<sup>4</sup> Romans 5:1

<sup>5</sup> Romans 6: 14

<sup>6</sup> Galatians 3: 14

<sup>7</sup> 2 Peter 2: 24

<sup>8</sup> Galatians 3: 29



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## SONGS OF

Salvation is the entire process that brings you and me into “zoe”, eternal life.

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## DELIVERANCE

Let's go back to Fixer Upper. The old, rundown house is now redeemed, but there's work to do to transform it into a new dwelling. The price has been paid to transfer ownership. A contract has been signed to assure the completed renovation.

We have **better** – a blood covenant.

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**“Now he who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,**

**who also has sealed us and given us the spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. “**

**2 Corinthians 2: 21, 22 (NKJV emphasis mine)**

**“Now he who has prepared us for this very thing is God,**

**who also has given us the spirit as a guarantee. “**

**2 Corinthians 5: 5 (NKJV emphasis mine) (\*see 5:1-4)**

**“In him also you trusted, after you heard the word of**

**truth, the gospel of your Salvation; in whom also, having**

**believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

**who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption**

**of the purchased possession, to the praise of his glory. “**

**Ephesians 1: 13, 14 (NKJV emphasis mine)**

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*which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. “*

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We have a receipt, a covenant guarantee, that God will complete Salvation in us. It is the Holy Spirit, who we received when we believed.

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**“Being confident of this very thing, that he who has**

**begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”**

## Philippians 1: 6 (NKJV)

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CONFIDENT! God is going to complete this project! The Holy Spirit in us is his guarantee. And it is *His* work; the house does not renovate itself, the contractor does that. You and I do not reform ourselves, the covenant maker does that.

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**"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that**

**not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any**

**man should boast.**

**For we are his WORKMANSHIP, created In Christ Jesus for good works,**

**which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."**

## Ephesians 2: 8 -10 (NKJV emphasis mine)

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Look at that. Even in our good works, we are his work, his project. So, how does all of this come together? How do we live it out?

1: It is by grace. Ephesians 2: 1-10

- TWICE Paul says, "by grace you are saved. "

"Grace ": "Favor from God, by no merit of our own", is how everything is "paid for" in this renovation project called Salvation. If our lives are to be restored by God, all of it MUST Be on the account that has been established for us by the blood of Jesus. Face it; we do not deserve ANY of this! We can begin to think, "Well I'm a Christian now, so my works are good."

**Nope.**

"Filthy rags " - Isaiah 64: 6

Any works that we do for God still have some sin in them, and ANY sin is not acceptable to God.

Offerings to God must be without blemish.

Grace comes **from** God, so it is perfect, flawless. Thus, we can offer that back to God, and he can accept. Glory be to God! So, we must have God's favor. That is him CAUSING the necessary changes to take place. He promised to do EXACTLY that, in this new covenant.

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**"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean;**

**I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.**

**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;**

**I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

**I will put my spirit within you and CAUSE you to walk in my**

**statutes, and you will keep my judgments and do them.**

**Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers.**

**YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE YOUR GOD.”**

**Ezekiel 36: 25 -28 (NKJV emphasis mine)**

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*Thus, we can offer that back to God, and he can accept.*

This is one of my favorite passages of scripture! Again, it is by grace. Read it again, and notice how often God says, “I will.” Do you see the words, “if you” anywhere? Grace is God doing what he promises, though we have no right to it. God foretold by Ezekiel what he would do in us, through the blood of his son.

Look at everything HE DID by grace:

1. He makes us clean. V. 25A
2. He removes other gods. V. 25B
3. He gives us a new heart. V. 26A
4. He gives us a new spirit. V. 26B
5. He makes us receptive to his word<sup>9</sup>. V. 26C
6. He puts his spirit in us. V. 27A
7. He CAUSES US to live his word. V. 27B
8. He fulfills his promise to Abraham in us<sup>10</sup>. V. 28A
9. We become his people, and he becomes our God. V. 28B

This is the one thing God wants more than anything else. It is the key to the whole Bible, beginning to end.

Look:

- Exodus 6:7
- Leviticus 26:12
- 2 Samuel 7:24
- Jeremiah 7:23, 24:7, 30:22, 31:1, 33; 32:38
- Ezekiel 11:20, 36:28, 37:23, 27

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<sup>9</sup> Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21, Galatians 3

SofD #4, “The Man Who Believed God - The Faith of Abraham.”

- Hosea 2:23
- Zechariah 8:8
- Hebrews 8:10
- Revelation 21:7

This whole book is about one thing: God almighty wants to have a relationship with you. So, HE DID EVERYTHING to make it possible for EVERYONE to have access to him. He named himself after our needs. He named his son, Jesus – “Salvation,” AND sent him to save us.

2: It Is Through Faith. Hebrews 11:6, Romans 14:23

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**“For whatsoever is not from faith is sin.”**

**Romans 14: 23b (NKJV)**

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SELAH.

ANYTHING not done by faith is sin. Jesus said, “for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15: 5) Again, he was not exaggerating a bit. Living by faith is believing God for the ability (grace - favor apart from merit) to do everything, every day. Faith like this:

**“Father, I have no ability to do anything that can please you today. So, I surrender myself entirely to you. You guide my mind, direct all I do. I receive your wisdom<sup>11</sup> to hear your voice in every decision I make today. Holy Spirit write God's word in my heart AND cause me to walk in it today. I can do all things through you; and nothing without you. Walk with me today. Be my God because I am your people. You be magnified, and let people see you in me. In Jesus name, Amen. “**

- Bring nothing to God on your own merit.
- Do nothing for God in your own strength.
- Expect nothing from God because of your virtue.
- Receive everything from God by faith.

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**“Jesus said to him, ‘if you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. “**

**Mark 9: 23 (NKJV)**

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The world twists that verse to mean, “believe in yourself,” but Jesus was saying, “anything is possible through believing in ME.” Faith in yourself is idolatry. That is why anything that is not of faith In Jesus is sin.

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<sup>11</sup> **James 1: 5; Proverbs 2: 6**

*"The just shall LIVE BY faith."*

Think on these things...

- **Have you ever considered WHY Paul began every letter he wrote, "Grace to you and peace From God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ"? Why do you think that was important to him?**

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So, Noah was justified by what?

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- Zechariah 12:10 – 13:1 What does the Spirit of grace in 12:10 produce in 13:1? (Hint: John 4:10,13)

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- Luke 4:33 Now, REALLY meditate on this one...Jesus needed grace.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Now, look at John 5:19-21; 14:10,11 His words and His works came from where?

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- Now, look at John 14:12, then Acts 4:33. Jesus had grace, but the disciples had "great grace". Jesus' prophecy?

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- Romans 10:10 Believing with our hearts produces righteousness. Confessing what is in our heart produces salvation. Considering what we have just studied, how do our words have a part in salvation?

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- Do you see faith in what you are speaking?

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- Look at Psalm 45:2. Notice, "therefore" - "because of what you just read..." So, what effect does having grace poured into your lips have on the renovation project? (WOW!)

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- How could we get grace in our words? (Hint: Ps. 45:1 "indicting" = "overflowing"; a mind filled with a good matter, faith.) \_\_\_\_\_

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- Now, search this one yourself. In Romans through Philemon (Paul's letters), do you notice a certain word with which he also **ends** his letters? \_\_\_\_\_
- Here is a bunch of verses to study and compare to what we just learned.

- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- 2 Corinthians 12: 9
- 2 Corinthians 13: 14
- Galatians 5: 4
- Ephesians 1: 7
- Ephesians 2: 8
- Ephesians 3: 2
- Ephesians 4: 7
- Ephesians 6: 24
- 1 Thessalonians 1: 1
- 2 Thessalonians 1: 12
- 2 Thessalonians 2: 16
- 2 Timothy 2: 1
- Titus 2: 11
- Titus 3: 5 -7
- Hebrews 10: 29
- Hebrews 12: 28
- James 4: 6
- 1 Peter 1: 10
- 1 Peter 3: 7
- 1 Peter 5: 12
- 2 Peter 3: 18

I pray that God will give you full revelation of living by grace through faith. All else is empty religion, but in it is a fellowship with your Savior as you have never known.

*"Behold the  
Tabernacle of God is  
with men, and he will  
dwell with them, and  
they shall be his  
people, God himself  
will be with them and  
be there God. "*

*Revelation 21: 3  
(NKJV)*