

The Gospel of Grace Through Faith

Christ's work, the response of faith, and new life

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Reina Valera 1960 · Francisco Lacueva

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Purpose and method

This study explains the gospel of God's grace received through faith in Jesus Christ. "Through faith" means trusting Christ, not trusting the strength of our own faith. The aim is to explain the gospel's message, our need for grace, and the life that grace produces.

Direct texts: Acts 20:24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 3:21-28. Complementary texts: John 1:14-17; Romans 5:1-11; Titus 2:11-14. The first group defines the message and its reception; the second develops its implications. This distinction concerns their use here, not different levels of biblical authority.

Each unit distinguishes biblical reference, textual explanation, doctrinal relationship, and application. References point to complete passages; summaries are not verbatim quotations. Reina Valera 1960 is the primary Bible version. Francisco Lacueva's interlinear provides specific linguistic support without replacing context.

The English and Portuguese editions translate the study's exposition. They are not official translations of RVR1960 or of Lacueva. Most biblical content is presented through references and paraphrases to avoid inaccurate attribution.

1. The good news has a name: Jesus Christ

Biblical reference — Direct texts: Acts 20:17-27; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Complementary texts: Romans 1:1-5, 16-17; Luke 24:44-49.

Textual explanation — In his farewell to the Ephesian elders, Paul describes his mission as testifying to the gospel of God's grace. He announces what God accomplished in Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15 he recalls Christ's death for our sins, burial, and resurrection according to the Scriptures. The listed appearances support the historical character of this message.

Doctrinal relationship — Grace does not mean pardon without justice. Forgiveness rests on the Savior's self-giving. Resurrection means the gospel does not end at a grave: Christ lives. Paul connects this message with Scripture and apostolic testimony, not a private revelation detached from Jesus.

Application — Begin with Christ and his work when explaining the gospel. Emotional experience may accompany faith, but it cannot supply its foundation. Ask whether you trust the crucified and risen Savior or your religious performance. Do not reduce the good news to prosperity, success, or institutional membership.

2. Why we need grace

Biblical reference — Direct: Romans 3:9-26; Ephesians 2:1-5. Complementary: Isaiah 53:4-6; Luke 18:9-14; Titus 3:3-7.

Textual explanation — Romans 3 places Jews and Gentiles under sin. The law exposes guilt; it does not provide a ladder toward self-justification. Ephesians 2 describes spiritual death before emphasizing God's initiative and abundant mercy. The seriousness of sin explains our need for salvation; it does not justify contempt for people.

Doctrinal relationship — Everyone needs grace, although their histories and responsibilities differ. Sin involves both wrongdoing and a broken relationship with God. The answer is not favorable comparison with others but mercy received in Christ. Titus 3 excludes righteous deeds as the foundation of salvation.

Application — Acknowledging sin does not require performing shame to earn forgiveness. It calls for honesty before God and the abandonment of excuses. Christian communities should welcome the repentant without making their past a permanent identity. Grace confronts self-sufficiency and restores hope to those who believe they can no longer return.

3. Grace and faith: gift and reception

Biblical reference — Direct: Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 4:1-8, 16-25. Complementary: John 3:14-18; Romans 10:8-17.

Textual explanation — Ephesians 2 joins three claims: salvation comes by grace, is received through faith, and does not arise from works that permit boasting. Verse 10 completes the teaching: those created in Christ are called to good works. Romans 4 contrasts wages owed with a gift received; Abraham illustrates trust in God's promise.

Doctrinal relationship — Grace identifies God's generous initiative; faith is the trust through which believers receive Christ. Faith adds no atoning value to the cross. It is not mental power that guarantees any desired outcome. Its significance depends on the One it trusts. Salvation is not payment for believing with sufficient intensity.

Application — Do not measure God's acceptance by the strength of your emotions. Trembling faith can turn to a dependable Savior. Hear Scripture, bring your questions, and trust Christ. Good works belong to the saved life; they do not purchase it. Generosity, service, and honesty can express gratitude without becoming spiritual currency.

4. Repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus

Biblical reference — Direct: Acts 20:21; Mark 1:14-15; Acts 17:30-31. Complementary: Luke 24:46-47; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.

Textual explanation — Acts 20:21 presents repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ within one apostolic witness. Mark 1 locates Jesus' call within the proclamation of the kingdom. These contexts differ, but repentance and faith should not be treated as incompatible responses.

Doctrinal relationship — Repentance means acknowledging sin and turning to God. It is not payment through emotional suffering or a perfect moral reform required before receiving Christ. Faith looks to the saving Lord. Sincere repentance does not excuse sin, and grace does not require sinners to manufacture the new life they need to receive.

Application — You may approach God before resolving your entire history. Confess what you know, seek help, and stop defending what destroys you. Where others have been harmed, possible restitution and concrete responsibility are appropriate fruits, not an atoning price. Pastoral care should lead people to Christ without manipulating fear.

5. Justification, peace, and reconciliation

Biblical reference — Direct: Romans 3:21-28; 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
Complementary: Galatians 2:16; Colossians 1:13-14, 21-22.

Textual explanation — Romans 3 presents God's righteousness apart from the law, while witnessed by the Law and the Prophets. God justifies through redemption in Christ. Romans 5 describes peace with God and access to grace as consequences of justification by faith. This peace is reconciliation, not a promise that anxiety will never return.

Doctrinal relationship — Justification declares sinners righteous on the basis of Christ; it does not declare that they never sinned. Forgiveness addresses guilt, reconciliation restores relationship, and redemption emphasizes the Savior's liberating work. These are related aspects of one salvation, not separate achievements gained through religious techniques.

Application — Conscience needs a firmer basis than "I behaved well today." Confess and make corrections when guilt is real; remember Christ's work when accusations lack foundation. Reconciliation with God encourages peace with others without requiring denial of abuse or abandonment of responsible boundaries.

6. Law, promise, and Christian freedom

Biblical reference — Direct: Galatians 3:10-29; 5:1-6, 13-14; Romans 7:7-13. Complementary: Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 8:1-4; 13:8-10.

Textual explanation — Galatians opposes making circumcision and law observance conditions of justification. Paul does not criticize God's holiness; he rejects seeking righteousness through that system. Romans 7 calls the law holy and explains how sin exploits the commandment. The problem lies in humanity, not a moral defect in God.

Doctrinal relationship — Christian freedom does not make God's will irrelevant. Believers do not purchase acceptance through observances; they live by the Spirit and serve in love. Matthew 5 must be read in light of Jesus' fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, without canceling Paul's teaching on justification.

Application — Examine requirements presented as necessary for God's acceptance. Distinguish biblical teaching from community customs. A voluntary practice may serve others; imposed as a condition of salvation, it can obscure Christ's sufficiency. Freedom expresses itself in responsible love and respect for others' consciences.

7. The Holy Spirit and assurance of belonging to Christ

Biblical reference — Direct: Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; Romans 8:9-17, 31-39. Complementary: John 10:27-30; 1 John 5:11-13; Hebrews 12:5-11.

Textual explanation — Ephesians 1 connects hearing the gospel, believing, and being sealed with the promised Spirit. The Spirit guarantees the inheritance. Ephesians 4 recalls that seal while urging believers to abandon conduct that grieves him. Romans 8 connects belonging to Christ, adoption, and confidence in God's love.

Doctrinal relationship — This study affirms the security of believers truly united to Christ: their hope rests on the Savior's faithfulness. This does not automatically certify every verbal profession of faith. Fatherly discipline and biblical exhortations remain part of Christian life. Christian traditions differ in their interpretation of apostasy and warning passages; these differences deserve honest acknowledgment.

Application — After failure, neither conceal sin nor hastily conclude that God has abandoned you. Return to Scripture, confess, and seek support. Biblical assurance nourishes gratitude and perseverance. It must not reassure someone who deliberately excuses harm and rejects all correction.

8. Grace that saves also teaches us to live

Biblical reference — Direct: Titus 2:11-14; Romans 6:1-14; Galatians 5:16-25. Complementary: Ephesians 4:17-32; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 John 1:8-2:2.

Textual explanation — Titus presents grace as both saving and instructive. Romans 6 rejects remaining in sin so grace may increase and appeals to union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Galatians 5 distinguishes the works of the flesh from the fruit of the Spirit. Transformation grows from a new relationship with God, not willpower alone.

Doctrinal relationship — Justification and growth must be distinguished. God accepts believers through Christ; the Spirit works in them to produce obedience. Growth may involve struggle, correction, and uneven progress. Struggle alone does not prove an absence of faith, nor does it make persistent sin harmless.

Application — Identify a specific area needing help: hurtful speech, dishonesty, resentment, or indifference. Pray, receive instruction, and take practical steps. Admitting limits and seeking help do not contradict faith. Holiness expresses itself in love, truth, and service rather than superiority. Confession makes renewed obedience possible without turning guilt into a permanent home.

9. Common objections: faith, works, and warnings

Does James 2 contradict Paul? — Romans 4 rejects works as the basis for obtaining justification. James 2:14-26 confronts professed faith that abandons a needy brother or sister. Both mention Abraham, but their episodes and questions differ. Works display living faith; they do not add another payment to Christ's work. Difficult verses must not be ignored when relating these authors.

Does grace remove responsibility? — No. Romans 6:1-2 and Titus 2:11-14 reject that conclusion. Forgiveness does not automatically erase civil, family, or community consequences. Loving someone who failed does not require concealing harm or obstructing protection of vulnerable people.

What about Hebrews 6:4-8 and 10:26-31? — These serious warnings require full contextual reading. Interpretations include loss of salvation and exposure of outward participation without saving faith. From the security position adopted here, they are real warnings against abandoning Christ, not proof that an isolated failure cancels salvation. This reading is not shared by every Christian tradition.

Does a prayer or ritual guarantee salvation? — No formula functions automatically. Romans 10:9-13 connects confession with trust in the Lord. Baptism belongs to Christian obedience and witness; churches formulate its relation to salvation differently. This study centers on Christ received through faith without dismissing ordinances or turning them into human merit.

10. A specific interlinear check

Consulted source — Francisco Lacueva, Nuevo Testamento Interlineal Griego-Español, CLIE. The attached copy lists a 1984 copyright, a 1990 legal deposit, and ISBN 84-7228-877-3. Ephesians 2:8-10 appears on printed page 762, corresponding to page 768 of the attached PDF.

Verified observation — Ephesians 2:8 includes χάριτι, associated with grace, and πίστεως, associated with faith. The Spanish line distinguishes grace from the mediation of faith. Verse 9 excludes works as the source of salvation and excludes boasting; verse 10 presents good works as the purpose of life created in Christ. This sequence supports the distinction between foundation and fruit.

Limits — The referent of “and this” in verse 8 has received different explanations. No unverified solution is attributed to Lacueva. The passage clearly teaches that salvation comes from God and excludes boasting; this note does not independently settle every debate about the origin of faith.

Editorial principle — No popular etymologies, hidden meanings, or sound-based Greek definitions are introduced. A gloss helps identify a word but cannot replace syntax, the letter’s argument, or Scripture as a whole. Other explanations in this study are biblical exposition, not quotations from the interlinear.

11. Conclusion and personal study guide

Conclusion — The gospel of grace announces God's saving initiative in Jesus Christ. Its foundation is the Lord's death and resurrection; it is received through faith together with repentance toward God. Justification cannot be purchased by works. New life, the Spirit's seal, and the promised inheritance direct believers toward grateful obedience.

Doctrinal overview — Grace: salvation's generous source. Christ: its sufficient foundation. Faith: trust that receives the Savior. Justification: acceptance before God on that basis. Good works: the fruit of life in Christ. Hope: resting in God's faithfulness while learning to walk with him.

Suggested reading — Day 1: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Day 2: Romans 3:9-28. Day 3: Romans 4:1-25. Day 4: Ephesians 2:1-10. Day 5: Acts 20:17-27. Day 6: Titus 2:11-14 and Galatians 5:16-25. Day 7: Romans 8:1-39. Read complete paragraphs and identify what the text says before choosing an application.

Reflection — What did Christ accomplish that I could not? How does receiving a gift differ from claiming wages? Where am I trying to earn acceptance already offered in Christ? What need of my neighbor calls for a concrete response? These questions support personal examination; they are not a formula to measure or guarantee salvation.

Suggested prayer — Lord, I acknowledge my need for your mercy. I trust Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again. Teach me to rest in your grace and serve in truth and love. This prayer expresses trust; its wording is not a saving ritual.

Bibliography and editorial notes

Biblia Reina Valera 1960. Primary biblical source for references and the Spanish exposition. Book, chapter, and verse are provided; paraphrases are not attributed as verbatim quotations from that version.

Lacueva, Francisco. Nuevo Testamento Interlineal Griego-Español. Terrassa: Editorial CLIE. Copy supplied by the compiler: copyright 1984; legal deposit 1990; ISBN 84-7228-877-3. Documented consultation: Ephesians 2:8-10, printed p. 762 / PDF p. 768.

Bravo Benavente, Ruperto. Compiler's biographical profile. Document supplied for this edition, October 6, 2026. Professional background is reproduced as information supplied by the compiler, not as independently verified credentials.

Reading principle — Compare doctrinal claims with complete passages. The position on salvation's security is identified; alternative interpretations are acknowledged without attempting a survey of every denomination. News, statistics, and scientific assertions are not used to establish doctrine.

Trilingual edition — Spanish, American English, and Brazilian Portuguese. A4 and A5 formats. The doctrinal content follows the same structure in all three languages. The profile is translated for editorial purposes and includes the photograph from the attached document.

Compiler's biographical profile



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Senior project developer and process engineering expert with more than 40 years of experience in the technical and financial structuring of industrial, agrifood, and critical infrastructure complexes.

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Editorial note: only professional information relevant to public publication is included. Sensitive personal data, identity documents, addresses, and other private information are omitted.

The Gospel of Grace Through Faith

Christ: foundation · Faith: reception · Works: fruit

01. The good news

Acts 20:24

Paul proclaims the gospel of God's grace.
Summary: Salvation begins with God's initiative.



02. Everyone needs grace

Romans 3:23-24

All have sinned; justification is freely given by grace.
Summary: No one can purchase acceptance before God.



03. Christ died and rose

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Christ died for our sins and rose again.
Summary: His work is the foundation of the gospel.



04. By grace, through faith

Ephesians 2:8-9

Salvation is God's gift, not the result of works.
Summary: Faith receives Christ; it does not pay for him.



05. Repent and believe

Acts 20:21

Repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus.
Summary: Turn to God without claiming to earn forgiveness.



06. Justified and at peace

Romans 5:1

Justified by faith, we have peace with God.
Summary: Reconciliation rests on Jesus Christ.



07. Free to love

Galatians 5:1, 13

Christ sets us free to serve one another in love.
Summary: Grace produces responsible service.



08. Sealed by the Spirit

Ephesians 1:13-14

Upon believing, we are sealed with the promised Spirit.
Summary: The Spirit guarantees our inheritance.



09. Secure in his love

John 10:27-29

Jesus gives eternal life and keeps his sheep.
Summary: Our hope rests on the Savior.



10. Created for good works

Ephesians 2:10

In Christ we are created for good works.
Summary: Works are salvation's fruit, not its price.



11. Grace transforms

Titus 2:11-14

Grace teaches us to reject ungodliness and live godly lives.
Summary: The Spirit guides us into new life.



12. Hope and gratitude

Romans 5:2-5

We rejoice in hope; God's love is poured into our hearts.
Summary: We walk in trust, love, and perseverance.



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Verses described through paraphrases; explanatory summaries.