

LESSON 03

The Truth About What Really Saves You

1: Sin and Salvation

Executive Summary

Many people believe salvation must be earned through good works or religious observance. But Scripture is clear: salvation is a gift. God loved us while we were still sinners, Jesus became our substitute on the cross, and we are saved solely by grace through faith — not by anything we do.

Key Terms

Grace	God's unearned favor toward sinners, shown supremely in Christ and active in the believer's growth.
Faith	Trusting God's Word and relying on Christ rather than self, merit, feeling, or religious performance.
Salvation	God's gracious rescue of sinners through the finished work of Christ, received by faith rather than earned by works.
Substitution	Christ taking the sinner's place, bearing sin's judgment so that believers may be reconciled to God.

Key Verses

English Standard Version (ESV)

John 3:16

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9

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.

Application Questions

1. What do these verses say God has done to save sinners?

2. Why can salvation never be earned by good works or religious activity?

3. Are you trying to make yourself good enough for God in any way? Explain.

4. How would you explain salvation by grace through faith in your own words?
