

# BY GRACE ALONE

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**WE BELIEVE**, as **SCRIPTURE** clearly teaches, that Grace is a merciful and loving gift of God, received by Faith Alone in Christ Alone. **(Romans 5:15; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 12:3).**

And that this gift of Grace can neither be earned, purchased nor bartered. **(Romans 11:6; Galatians 2:21, etc.)**

Therefore no one who intends to earn salvation via their own striving, effort, or good will/intent, will ever receive it. **(Galatians 3:10-11)**

They have fallen from Grace. **(Galatians 5:4, See also Ephesians 3:7; Galatians 1:6-7; Acts 13:39; etc.)**

**Christ Jesus explained in the Gospel of (Luke 13:24);** "Strive to enter in by the narrow door: for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

*"And why not? Because they do not recognize the narrow door. It is faith.*

*"Faith humbles one, reduces him to nothing, until he must despair of all his good works and cleave only to God's grace. "For that he must forsake all else." (1)*

**Without doubt then we must** "...believe ourselves one to whom grace and mercy are given..."

*"When we so believe, we are free to say of ourselves: "I am holy, godly and just. I am a child of God, perfectly assured of salvation.*

*"Not because of anything in me, not because of my merits or works, am I saved; it is of the pure mercy of God in Christ, poured out upon me."* **Martin Luther, Sermon for the Sunday after Christmas, Galatians 4:1-7**

(1) "Sermons of Martin Luther", Sermon on Sunday after Christmas on **Galatians 4:1-7** J. Lenker, VI Vol., Page 228, 1988 printing.

## PASSAGE OF THE DAY

**(Galatians 5:1)** *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery."*

**Reflect upon these passages this week:** **(Galatians 2:21; Hebrews 7:11; Romans 9:31-33)**

## NOTABLE QUOTE

*"To be convinced in our hearts that we have forgiveness of sins and peace with God by grace alone is the hardest thing."*

Martin Luther, **Commentary on Galatians**

## NEXT WEEKS THEME

**Faith is a shield by which God guards us for salvation!**

**\*Other than quotes all passage – ESV**

