

Notes for Each Slide of "If I'm Saved By Grace, Why Bother With Works?"

Slides:

1. Today's talk was prepared by a ministry called UnveilinGLORY. They are all about the glory of God and wanting it to be seen in every area of life and in all peoples of the world.
2. The last time I talked to you I referenced a book called, "Why." And our focus was on what God did in Eternity Past where only God the Father, God the Son and The Holy Spirit existed.
3. In today's talk, I'll be speaking from a book called, "If I'm Saved By Grace, Why Bother With Works?" and we'll be focusing more on Eternity Future.
4. We're still looking at the same key verse we saw last time, "Ephesians 2 verses 6 and 7."
(Read the text)
 - a. Remember, God wants to "show the incomparable riches of His grace"
 - b. The verb "to show" can be accurately translated "to put on display" or to live it out or to demonstrate)
 - c. In other words, for all of Eternity Future, God wants to put on display or live out His grace.
 - d. But just how do you think God wants to do this?
5. What would be the greatest revelation of His grace in Eternity Future?
 - a. Now this is audience participation time. I want you to try to think through this one, and you're going to have to
6. Think Outside the Box. So, give me some answers. How do you think God could put on display His grace forever in Eternity Future?
 - a. Most answers you'll get will be "inside the box" such as, "Give us a relationship with Him," or "Forgive us our sins" or "Let us into heaven."
 - b. To all of those I say, "Nope, that's thinking way inside the box, I want you to think way outside the box.
 - c. (After a sufficient time of no answers, go to the next slide.)
7. Could we replace Him as God?
 - a. (Most will say, "No." which is correct.)
 - b. OK, then what could he do just short of that?
 - c. (Wait. If they guess it, congratulate them and move on to the next slide. If they don't say it, go to the next slide whenever you feel it has been enough time for them to guess.)
8. How about "Ruling and Reigning with Christ?"
 - a. Now that would be grace, wouldn't it.
 - b. To not only redeem people, but then to allow them to rule and reign with Christ throughout Eternity Future... That's grace.
 - c. Is this biblical?
9. Revelation 3:21 says, (read text)
10. Look at Revelation 2:26 as well. (Read text)
11. Hebrews 3:14 also points us in this direction. (Read text). Note the words "partakers" can accurately be translated "partners." It is saying we are partners with Christ.
12. 2 Timothy 2:12 also says it. (Read text.)
13. No wonder Jesus said he had a kingdom waiting for us.
14. Look at Matthew 25 verse 34. (read the text.)
15. But Wait. All of these verses we looked at had works involved in it in some way.
16. In Revelation 3:21, the one who gets to sit on His throne is the one who "overcomes." The Greek word for "overcome" is "nikeo" from where we get the word "Nike" as in the shoe. So you have to be a winner and always finish somewhere at the top.

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17. In Revelation 2:26, you not only have to be an overcomer, but overcome all the way until the end. You can’t change direction at half time or go strong for a little while and then fade out. You have to finish strong all the way to the end of your life.
18. In Hebrews we will partner with Christ “if we hold fast...firm to the end.”
19. Timothy tells us we have to “endure,” then we get to reign with Christ.
20. Matthew says we get our kingdom because (read text.)
21. RATS. I thought salvation was by grace. You know, like Ephesians 2:8 and 9 says,
 - a. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. “
22. Do you feel a bit a tension going on inside of you? Just about all of our lives we’ve been told that getting to heaven is by faith alone, and now we see a bunch of verse that seem to say, “Yeah, maybe faith, but you better do good works as well and be strong with them all the way to the end.”
 - a. Like this little boy, you might be quite puzzled as many Christians are.
 - b. So how do we understand this Seemingly contradictory set of scriptures?
23. Welcome to the difference between Entering the kingdom of God and inheriting the kingdom of God.
 - a. For centuries, theologians have assumed that these two words meant the exact same thing.
 - b. But it is the farthest thing from the truth.
24. Entering the kingdom of God speaks about getting into heaven. When used in the scriptures, it is present tense and faith is required.
25. Inheriting the kingdom of God has nothing to do with getting into heaven. When you find it used, it is future tense, endurance, works and character is required.
26. When Jesus spoke about an Inheritance, His disciples immediately went to their understanding of the Old Testament.
27. Gaining an inheritance was an Old Testament idea and referenced getting into the Promised Land.
28. In Deuteronomy 4:1 we read: (read text)
29. It continues in verses 37 and 38: (read text.)
30. The Exodus Generation (the generation of people that came out of Egypt captivity in the book of Exodus) was promised an inheritance in the form of the Promised land.
 - a. But there were stipulations that were put on it.
 - b. It had to be earned.
31. Look at Joshua 1:6,7 (read text.)
32. Look also at Deuteronomy 1:11-13 (read text)
33. But here is the key. It is possible to be promised an inheritance, and lose it.
34. Here are three that lost it.
 - a. The Exodus Generation lost it.
 - i. If you’ll remember, they got to the edge of the Promised Land and sent in 12 spies. They came back and gave a report. 10 said, “No, we can’t do this, lets turn back.” And 2 said “We can do this, God is on our side.” The Exodus generation sided with the 10 and weren’t “strong” or “courageous” as they were supposed to be. Therefore God had them wander around in the wilderness for 40 years until the entire generation died off. They never saw the Promised Land.
 - b. Moses lost it.
 - i. He was suppose to speak to the Rock to make water flow out of it but he struck it. God said, “Because you’ve disobeyed me, you aren’t allowed into

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- the Promised Land either.” Yet he is clearly in heaven because we see him with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. So this obviously has nothing to do with going to heaven.
- c. Achan got in, but didn’t do “all” according to the law and then was stoned to death. He didn’t fully get his inheritance either.
35. Here’s the key. Inheriting the Promised Land was obtained by obedience and lost by disobedience.
36. So too is it with our inheritance in heaven. Inheriting the kingdom of God is obtained by obedience and lost by disobedience.
37. So what is our New Testament Inheritance?
38. Ruling and Reigning with Christ.
39. We are talking about a kingdom, tailor made for you since the beginning of time that is earned by works and lost by disobedience.
40. Now let’s be very clear, this kingdom is not heaven itself.
41. Look at 1 Peter 1:3,4. (Read the text.)
- a. Now, when it says “born again” that talks about having a relationship with God and getting into heaven.
 - b. Then note the conjunction, “and.” That means there is something else, meaning it’s not the same thing. “And into an inheritance....”
 - c. And note that this inheritance is kept IN heaven for you.
42. If our inheritance is kept IN heaven, it can’t be heaven itself.
43. This is why Paul talks about it being a reward. Look at Colossians 3:23,24.
- a. Read the text.
 - b. Note that the word “reward” is used and it means compensation for work done.
 - c. Oh, so I’m working my way to heaven, right?
 - d. NO. This is not talking about getting INTO heaven, it is talking about being rewarded in heaven. Gaining your kingdom.
44. He’s referencing the kingdom that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 25:34. Note the word “inherit” as in “inherit the kingdom.”
- a. Read the text.
 - b. This is referencing getting INTO heaven, it is referencing gaining your full reward: a kingdom prepared for you since the beginning of time.
45. It is because of this idea of ruling and reigning with Christ that the Bible says we are “co-heirs” with Christ.
46. Look at Romans 8:16,17 (read text.)
- a. Now, what is an “heir?”
 - i. (You can ask your audience, or simply move on, it’s up to you.)
 - b. It comes from the word “inheritance.” It speaks of one who gets something from the parents once they pass on.
 - c. Christ is going to be an heir to His Father.
47. So, whatever Christ inherits, we inherit.
- a. So what does Christ inherit?
48. Hebrews 1:1,2 says, (read the text)
- a. Christ inherits “all things.”
 - b. What are “all things?”
 - i. (Usually your audience will say “all things” themselves, just repeating it back. You need to help them understand what that implies.)
 - c. Does it mean this building? (Yes) The trees? (Yes), The whole earth? (Yes) The solar system we’re in? (Yes) The Milky Way Galaxy? (Yes),

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49. The entire universe? (Yes)
 - a. Every star, every planet, every corner of the universe, Christ inherits.
 - b. Think through this.
50. Christ inherits the universe and we will rule and reign with him on His throne over that universe.
 - a. Remember what it says in Revelation 3:21
51. (Read the text.)
52. No wonder Jesus said He had a kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world. He knew what he was going to inherit. He knew we would be co-heirs. He's been dreaming this up for a very long, long time.
53. But remember, we earn this kingdom by earning rewards. This is why Jesus repeatedly spoke of rewards.
54. If you love the unlovable, you'll be earning rewards. (Read the text.)
55. If you give to the poor, you'll be earning rewards. (Read the text.)
56. When you pray in Secret, you earn rewards. (Read the text)
57. When you fast privately, you earn rewards. (Read the text.)
58. So when Jesus said these words in Matthew 16:27, he wasn't referencing getting into heaven at all. He was referencing earning your kingdom, earning your inheritance.... (Read text.)
59. This helps give an understanding to the huge debate that has gone on for centuries between Catholics and Protestants.
 - a. Catholics have basically thought that you have to be a good person to get to heaven.
 - b. Protestants have basically thought that you get to heaven by believe in Jesus by faith.
 - c. Both have had scripture to back it up.
 - d. But now you can be aware that the verses that focus on works are not referencing getting into heaven, but rather earning your inheritance, your kingdom.
60. Bruce Wilkinson put it best when he wrote these words: (Read slide and repeat it twice).
61. So when will we know if we get the rewards or not? Our rewards will be given on the day we are judged. There is a judgment day for all believers.
62. Maybe you don't know, but there are two judgment thrones referenced in the bible.
 - a. There is the great white throne where non-believers find out they are going to go to a Christless eternity.
 - b. Then there is the Judgment seat of Christ, where all believers will stand and have their life scrutinized.
63. Paul tells us about this in 2 Corinthians 5:10 (Read the text.)
 - a. Note the words "due him." Sounds like something you earned, right?
 - b. "Oh, OK, we have to work out way into heaven."
 - c. NO. This has nothing to do with getting into heaven. It has everything to do with finding out how many rewards we get.
64. All Christians are going to be judged.
 - a. Every cup of cold water that we give to others in Jesus name will be credited to our account.
 - b. Every text we text.
 - c. Every tweet we tweet.
 - d. Every secret we whisper will be made known to all.
 - e. Every good deed that we do will be judged.
65. The question answered will be, "Will you have earned your kingdom or not?"
66. For some, there will be bad news... very bad news.

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67. Look at 1 Corinthians chapter 3 verse 12-15. (Read text.)
 - a. “The day will show it” references Judgment day for believers.
 - b. The day will be like a fire burning all of our life’s works.
68. (Read the text.) If our life is tried by fire and there is gold, silver and precious stones left, we will receive a reward—our inheritance. our Kingdom.
69. (Read the text.) If our life is tried by fire and it was made up of wood, hay and straw, that all burns away and there is nothing left. There is no reward for us.
 - a. Note what it says, we will “suffer loss.” What does “suffer loss” mean?
70. That can accurately be translated from the Greek, “forfeit.” They will forfeit something.
 - a. What will they forfeit? (Wait for an answer and see if they get it.)
71. That’s right. They will forfeit their inheritance or forfeit their kingdom—the kingdom God had prepared for them since the beginning of time.
72. The kingdom that God had prepared for them will be given away to someone else who was faithful.
73. Look at how it says it in Luke 19:24 with the unfaithful servant. (Read the text.)
 - a. The mina represents his reward.
74. No wonder the Bible talks about tears in heaven.
75. (Read the text.)
 - a. It now makes sense why there will be tears there.
 - b. Because people will realize that what God had prepared for them from the beginning of time wasn’t going to be given to them and it was going to be given to someone else.
 - c. It’s easy to understand why there will be crying in heaven.
 - d. But Jesus will wipe away every one of those tears and still make things all right.
76. OK. We’re at the end of our talk today, so lets ask, ‘What have we learned.
 - a. We’ve learned that God wants to give you a kingdom He prepared for you before time began.
 - b. We’ve also learned that you have to earn this kingdom, it isn’t simply given to you. It will be earned based on how you live your life on this earth.
77. Read the text.
78. What you’ve learned so far is not incorrect, but very incomplete.
79. There are many other things to learn, such as: Based on how many rewards we earn here on earth
 - a. Our heavenly bodies can be different
 - b. Our kingdoms can be different
 - c. We can have a greater closeness to Jesus
 - d. We can be a part of the Bride of Christ
 - e. Or we may only be guests at the wedding
 - f. Or maybe we won’t be invited in at all....
80. Answers to all of this can be found in the book, “If I’m saved By Grace, Why Bother With Works.”
81. You can find it at the UnveilinGLORY website. Again, note the one “G” in those combined words.
82. OK, name one thing new you’ve learned today. (Go around to each person and hear what they have to say.)