

Philippians 2:12-13 -- *...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Verse thirteen is added to show how one works on their salvation. Since God's grace (the gospel) is a course of instruction that must be obeyed (2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17), then as long as one is obeying God's Word, it can be said that God is at work in them, since they are following His will in order to please Him. Some other passages that express the aspect that salvation is something yet to come are:

Matthew 24:13 -- *But it is the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.*

Romans 5:9 -- *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*

Romans 8:24-25 -- *For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.*

ELEMENTS OF SALVATION

What one needs to do to be saved is by no means a mystery. Just taking up an exhaustive concordance and looking up the words "save," "saved," and "salvation" will lead one to all the passages pertaining to what is necessary to be done to please God and obtain to the resurrection from the dead. Unfortunately, most people depend on the clergy of their individual faiths or what their friends and family tell them, rather than searching it out for themselves. While the list below deals with the general areas in a more complete way than what most people hear, one is still encouraged to compare what is written here to God's Word, which is truly the last Word in the matter.

1. **Believing God's Word.** While most "Christian" faiths agree that faith is necessary (John 3:16), there is disagreement on exactly what "faith" means, or what one is to believe. The Scriptures teach that the gospel is God's power to save and that it helps one move from "faith to faith" (Romans 1:16-17). While too many believe in any sort of thing (Colossians 2:18-23), what the first century Christians believed they were called by, was the gospel (2 Thess. 2:13-14). One believes because God sent heralds out to preach His word (Romans 10:8-15).

When one truly knows and understands God's will, one knows that man still falls far short of God's expectations of both his nature and behavior. When Paul looked at all that man has done, and does, he comes to the same conclusion as the Psalmist, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Romans 3:23).

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S GRACE

Titus 2:11-12 -- *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.*

Many "Christian" Faiths see the Grace of God as Him thumping selected individuals on the head and saving them. This is the essence of Calvinism. Note, however, in the above passage that the apostle Paul writes that God's salvation has appeared to ALL men. This goes along with Peter's revelations:

2 Peter 3:9 -- *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

Acts 10:34-35 -- *And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.*

God's grace is for everyone, but from the Bible it is evident that not all men are saved. Why? God's grace is described as a gift (Ephesians 2:8) and because it is a "gift" it has three parts to it:

1. There has to be expressed intent by the one granting it (this is seen in the previous passages).
2. There has to be a means provided in order to convey it. (John 1:17, Jesus is the conveyance.)
3. It has to be accepted. These three parts are commonly understood even in our system of law.

Man's problem is that generally he has not accepted God's grace and so he is not saved. But there is more to be understood about the conveyance. Going back to Titus 2:11-12, it tells us that the grace of God appears as a *course of instruction*. The Scriptures instruct one in what to "put on" and what to "put off" and *how* to do that. Here are just a few contexts that deal with this concept:

2 Timothy 3:16 -- *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*

