

1 (8s):

All right. Well, welcome everybody. It's so good to see you guys in person and online. Welcome. My name is Matt Wolf. I'm the lead pastor here at arise church. We're all about helping people follow Jesus, and we want to help you follow Jesus. If I haven't connected with you, I want to go to [rice number.com/connect](http://rice.number.com/connect). Fill out that form that says, I knew press that button. Fill that out. Your in-person online. Fill that out. If you do that, we get \$5 to the Denver rescue mission. So we give a gift in your name to help someone get out of homelessness, get a meal, all that good stuff. So it makes sure you do that. I'd love to connect and please do hang around afterwards. If you're even just like a little tiny bit interested in one of those global outreach teams this summer to Mexico or Astoria hangout, even just to find out more. Jimmy Smith is our global outreach coordinator and he is incredible.

1 (50s):

He does so many good things. He coaches, countries all over coaches, churches all over the country in how to do this. And we get them here. He's part of our church. So we love Jimmy that he's here. Cause we're all about bold outreach here. Bold outreach is one of our values. So we say we are boldly sent to seek and love the lost. Like we're not afraid to go out there. And we do that around the world. We're also doing some cool stuff here locally. We have a new refugee ministry that's helping with, you know, right now, one family that lives just down the street, Burmese refugees from the nation of Myanmar where there's a ton of conflict and we get to help them a little bit. So we're excited about that. If you're interested at all in those things arise and Broadcom slash connect, fill out the serve somewhere form, click local or global outreach, and we'll get you more info.

1 (1m 32s):

You can just find out more, make sure you do that today. We are in our second message in our better than you think series. If you missed message, number one, you can always catch up. We got audio video, we got transcripts go to [horizon and.com/media](http://horizonand.com/media). You can subscribe to make sure that it gets straight to your phone and your podcast app or on YouTube. And we want you to connect with those messages. In last week, we talked about heaven, how heaven is way better than most people think. And today we're going to talk about salvation title, my message, climbing, Everest, climbing Everest. And I don't know a ton about Everest. You know, that's not really been my thing, but a man named Paul veiling.

1 (2m 12s):

We have this picture of Paul. Valan had read some books about mountaineering as just a child. He heard about some of the people that were climbing Everest. So he made it his lifelong dream to climb Mount Everest. And he's still kinda thought it was a pipe dream. But when he entered into his thirties, he went into Asia and he was traveling around, met some people, met a guy who was a guide who had been to Everest and summative multiple times. He thought maybe I could do this. So in 2013, he went to Nepal for the first time. And he tried out on some of the smaller peaks there in the nation of Nepal and went up to two, these peaks that are so high and he thought I could do this. I have a guide.

1 (2m 52s):

I could do it. So in 2014 he decided he would make it his mission that year to climb Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. It's two thirds of the way through our atmosphere, 29,028

2 (3m 4s):

Feet above sea level. Okay. That's kind of tall in case you were wondering that's more than like double our fourteeners here in Colorado. It makes our mountains look like foothills.

1 (3m 15s):

So he made it his mission to do it. So he went in 24, 2014 and he went finally to the base camp. It takes weeks just to make it to base camp and you have to be there for a little while to acclimate. So he went in April of 2014 was acclimating to the weather. And one particularly difficult thing for him was that he had asthma.

2 (3m 33s):

Okay. There's very

1 (3m 34s):

Little air at that high. So it takes a while to acclimate, but he's like, I'm going to do it. But they're in 2014, they were waiting for the weather to get just right. Cause there's only really a few days, a few weeks in the entire year where people can make it to the summit because the weather is so bad. And so erratic was snowstorms and blizzards. But while they were waiting, there was some hot weather and it actually caused a big chunk of ice to fall off a glacier, to fall off the mountain and hit and, and destroyed and killed 13

2 (4m 3s):

People that were there. 13 people in base camp were killed before they even left base camp. And for Paul, it was like, Oh my gosh.

1 (4m 11s):

W how, how can we do this? And in fact, the Nepalese government at that point said, no, no, no. We're shutting down the mountain this year. Nobody is climbing to the top of Everest and no one did in 2014.

2 (4m 22s):

So he thought

1 (4m 22s):

Maybe his dreams were dashed. So he went back home and decided, Hey, maybe I'll get a chance again. So we started training and training. Like you have to do training, purchasing the gear, all that stuff to get ready to maybe go up the mountain. Again. Finally, he was contacted at the end of 2017 by that same guide. And

he said, Hey, 2018 is going to be my last year ever going up. So if you want to,

2 (4m 42s):

You know, now's the time. So Paul decided on doing it, going up Everest 2018.

1 (4m 48s):

So he trained even more trained, harder. He, he prepared, he had all the gear and when he got to the base camp in 2014,

2 (4m 53s):

He was ready. He made

1 (4m 56s):

Sure that his breathing got acclimated to that low amount of oxygen and they set out so there's base camp and then you go base camp and you go up a few thousand more feet to camp two. And then you have to go up a few more thousand feet to camp three. And all this time, it is arduous. Some of the most difficult climbing

2 (5m 12s):

In the world. And there they were

1 (5m 14s):

Every day, day in and day out going farther and farther trying to acclimate to the air, especially man, I can't imagine that

2 (5m 19s):

One mountain

1 (5m 22s):

Climbing expert said that it's like breathing through a straw while you're running on a treadmill. That's how bad the oxygen is. And that's for people

2 (5m 30s):

That don't have asthma. So Paul was working super hard and finally, finally

1 (5m 35s):

They made it to camp two and then they set out for camp three. And on the way to camp three, one of his friends that was going with him died unexpectedly.

2 (5m 43s):

And he didn't

1 (5m 43s):

Know if emotionally he could keep moving on, but he said, I'm going to keep pressing forward. I'm gonna keep trying. And he finally made it to camp three. It took 15 hours to make it there. And then to make it to camp four, I'm sorry, between camp three and camp four was 15 straight of climbing, no sleep, 15 hours straight. And they finally made it

2 (6m 2s):

Camp four and his guide said

1 (6m 5s):

We made it, but we have to go now to the summit. We have to go. Now I know you've been climbing for 15 hours straight without sleeping at all, but we have to go. It's 8:00 PM at night, but we have to do it if we want a chance to make it to the summit tomorrow. So they started there in the middle of the night, climb even harder in some of the coldest temperature in the month. And he's already gone 15 hours straight without sleeping, but he kept pushing himself for another seven hours straight. They finally made it to an area that has a big ledge where, where you can get a little bit of rest. So he sat down and he was going to trade out one of the oxygen tanks he was using. So he could breathe at that high of an altitude. And he felt his temperature just drop. And he looked at his

2 (6m 45s):

Body temperature dropped by a few degrees in that moment. And that meant his fingers

1 (6m 50s):

Starting to tighten up. And then he could not even feel his fingers anymore. He thought for sure, I'm going to have frostbite. I'm going to lose some of my fingers. I don't know if I can make it. So though, I don't have any energy left. He was exhausted.

2 (7m 3s):

He was exhausted

1 (7m 3s):

Almost 24 hours straight. Now that they had been climbing this mountain,

2 (7m 9s):

But then the sun rose. And they could see that they were just over 600 feet from the summit.

1 (7m 16s):

So they pushed on, he summoned up some energy from the depths of his soul and he pushed on climbing harder and harder just so he can make it to the summit. And after a lifetime of dreaming, after years of preparation and even a failed attempt, and now five weeks, he had been there from base camp now to the summit. He reached summit at seven in the morning and was able to be one of only about 5,000 people who have made it to the top of the tallest peak

2 (7m 43s):

World. Pretty incredible. Right. And we hear stories.

1 (7m 47s):

It was like that. We, we were amazed. We're an off people that can, can work that hard. And most of us were like, there's no way I could ever do it. And I

2 (7m 56s):

Think climbing Everest like that is how most of us think the Christian faith is like,

1 (8m 4s):

Honestly, we, we, we think about it and we look, Hey, if I'm going to make it to the top, if I'm going to make it and to have salvation, if I'm going to get to heaven, like we talked about last week, I've got to work really hard. I've got to train, I've got to prepare. I got to make sure that I can do it. I got need to have to give a really good guide. Who's been there before me to help me along. And even then I think only a few people, a select group of people can work hard enough, can read their Bible can memorize scripture. She can pray enough, meditate, give away their money. I don't know if I can do it. It's so hard. We see people that, that fall away. It just seems so difficult to make it to the top. And I think that's how most people think about the idea of

2 (8m 39s):

Salvation that it's climbing Everest. Now,

1 (8m 45s):

W we're going to talk about salvation today. We're going to talk specifically about what the Bible says about salvation, but the idea of salvation is really all around us. Whether you're a believer or not, whether you're or irreligious, no matter what your faith, there's also way some sort of salvation

2 (9m 0s):

That comes along with it for Christians, it

1 (9m 3s):

Is making it to heaven. We would love to get in, right? We'd love to make it to that heaven. As we talked about last week that's life, as it was meant to be, that sounds great.

2 (9m 13s):

But, but for

1 (9m 13s):

Other faiths, you know, it may be heaven or maybe a different type of heaven, or maybe reaching Nirvana that finally you have made the place that you've escaped the cycle of rebirth for people that aren't religious. They say, well, Hey, you know, salvation is becoming that person. I've always wanted to be, but I can find peace in myself and be totally happy. Everyone has some concept of salvation. And yet everyone, it seems has this idea of salvation as climbing Everest,

2 (9m 43s):

Working hard. Yeah.

1 (9m 44s):

Maybe I can make a really only a select few people that can do it. I don't know if I can do it. That seems hard. It sounds difficult. I don't know if I have it in me. I don't have that reserve strength when I've been climbing for 24 hours to dig down deep. I don't know if I have it in me. And when we look at salvation like that, it's daunting. It's, it's terrible. And we think, man, there's no way I can

2 (10m 3s):

Make it to the end. You

1 (10m 5s):

Know, Buddha even said, it's reported that his last words, and there's a few different variations of it. Well, some of his last words were work hard at your own

2 (10m 12s):

Salvation. That's what

1 (10m 15s):

Most people think, whether you're religious or not, as I've got to work hard for myself

2 (10m 19s):

And then I'll make it to the top of the mountain. But man only a few people actually make it. What I'm going to tell you,

1 (10m 25s):

You today is that salvation is better than you think

2 (10m 30s):

That what we believe

1 (10m 31s):

As followers of Jesus, what's taught here in our Bible with Jesus proclaimed would Paul is we're going to see the apostle proclaimed is a truth. That's the good news. The gospel of Jesus Christ and his salvation is not climbing Everest.

2 (10m 45s):

It's not so much better than that.

1 (10m 49s):

So that's what we're talking about in this whole series. We're, we're seeing these things, these misconceptions that even Christians

2 (10m 53s):

Have about our faith last

1 (10m 55s):

Week, we saw that heaven, heaven is way better than you think. It's not going to be boring. It's going to be life as it was meant to be today. We're going to talk about salvation next week. We're going to talk about, well, it seems like Christianity is just a bunch of rules. Is it really like that? Is it really just a straight jacket to keep you from doing fun stuff? And then in the last week in this series, we're going to talk about how the, the church, because Christians are just viewed as like these hate-filled hypocrites that are stuck in the past. Is that really true? And to all of these things we're saying, no, no, no, it's better than you think. That's what we're going to see today with salvation. And actually I misspoke next week, we have a special guest. He was the guy who taught me how to preach. It's pretty cool. I'm really excited that he's going to be here. So be here for that. He taught me how to preach. He taught Sawyer how to preach. He's the preacher, a teacher, preacher teacher at Denver seminary.

1 (11m 36s):

So be back for that. It's going to be really cool. Let me special. And then we'll be in the series

2 (11m 40s):

Two weeks after that. But today we're talking about salvation. We're talking about salvation, but it's not climbing Everest.

1 (11m 47s):

This is what most people think. So there are really a few different variations. There's three misconceptions. And then we're going to get to the one here. There, there are a lot of different ideas about what it means to salvation climbing ever. So I want to give you the first variation. This is the most common is that salvation is starts out with works. You've got to work really hard to start yourself on the path, to start yourself, climbing the mountain, and then you gotta keep working hard. And then at the very end, you better be working hard to work the whole way. That's what most people think of when they think of religion. Most people think of this. When they think of Christianity, it's just work, work, work, work, work, work, hurt, and then maybe you'll make it to the top. So that's the first variation

2 (12m 24s):

From the second one is, is a variation of this is that

1 (12m 28s):

You start working really, really hard. You work hard all your life. You'll be a really good person. And that at the very end, maybe God will give you some grace. Maybe he'll help you out to make it to the summit. At the very end, there are religions that teach this. A lot of people think that's what Christianity teaches. You work really hard. Maybe at the very end Donald be kind to you. But this too is wrong. This is not what the Bible

2 (12m 52s):

Teaches. The third variation has it in reverse.

1 (12m 56s):

That may be, we start out our climbing, that that God forgives us of our sins. We had grace at the beginning. And once you have your sins, your past forgiven,

2 (13m 5s):

Now you have to work really hard and you're

1 (13m 7s):

Gonna work really hard. Try to be a better person, a better person. And then if you keep doing that, maybe you'll make it in. So yeah, you, you can have your past forgiven, but your present and your future, you better work hard. So this is variation. Number three in this too is wrong.

2 (13m 19s):

Wrong. Christianity does not teach this. This is not found in the Bible instead. It's this grace at the beginning, grace

1 (13m 32s):

At the end and grace everywhere

2 (13m 34s):

In between. That's tracking with me.

1 (13m 38s):

It's grace that says, yes, you do have a pass. You have done some terrible things in your past. You have sin, you have gone astray. You have not believed there's grace for that. There's forgiveness for that. Your past can be removed from you. It says, God takes our sins and put them behind his back. He doesn't look at them anymore. He forgot our sins on purpose because he loves us. He has grace for us, and yet he has grace for us in every moment of our entire lives. And at the very end, it's still going to be grace. That can,

2 (14m 2s):

It's a sin. And it's all along the way too. This is what the good news

1 (14m 9s):

Of Jesus' crisis. This is what the good news that we proclaim that we believe that it's the center of everything we do here at this church is that it's grace at the beginning, grace in the middle of grace at the end, grace, every moment of your life, every minute of your life and whatever you do, it's grace. Even when you think you're working hard, it's, God's grace working

2 (14m 26s):

And you, this is what we believe. It may feel like you're climbing a mountain, but really

1 (14m 33s):

It's grace. And that's what we're going to see today from the passage we're looking at, we're really looking at two verses today, two verses. And they're very simple verses you can memorize these two verses everyone should, because this is really the heart of what we believe about salvation. So good. Go to Ephesians chapter two, verses eight nine. If you have a Bible,

2 (14m 49s):

We have the verse up here as well on. You can use the YouVersion Bible app as well. And

1 (14m 56s):

This passage it's so rich, but it teaches this idea of grace, grace, the beginning, grace at the end, this is what salvation is. So I'm going to read it to you. It says this for it is by grace. You have been saved through faith and this is not from yourselves. It is the gift of God. Not by works so that no one can

2 (15m 13s):

Post. It's very simple. This is salvation. The apostle Paul wrote this. He says, this is when Jesus proclaimed. This is what we believe

1 (15m 23s):

Or does by grace. Look at that first word. It is by grace. You have been saved

2 (15m 28s):

Through faith. That's how it starts out. That's how it finishes. It's grace. You want graces.

1 (15m 35s):

This is simple way to remember it. It's God's riches at Christ's expense. It's an acronym, right? It's pretty simple to remember God's riches at Christ's expense. So God has riches. He says, I have abundance. I have everything. I created everything. And I have all sorts of

2 (15m 49s):

Stuff for you. I have riches. I have power

1 (15m 52s):

Or I have my Holy spirit. And I want to give that to you. A gift

2 (15m 57s):

Because

1 (15m 58s):

Jesus Christ, his son died on the cross. It was his expense. He paid in full what we receive as a gift.

2 (16m 4s):

That's what grace is.

1 (16m 6s):

Another way to think about grace is unearned favor or unearned. Goodness about saying you don't earn it. You can't do anything to buy it. You can't even pay me back for it. It's at my expense. Here it is. Unmerited. Grace, unmerited favor, unmerited gifts.

2 (16m 25s):

That's what grace is. And I say,

1 (16m 27s):

You can't pay them back because some of us foolishly think,

2 (16m 30s):

Oh, I'm so God. So glad God forgave my past isn't and bad stuff. I feel so bad about

1 (16m 36s):

Those things. And I'm glad he forgave me of those things. So I better work really hard to pay him back, but you could never pay God back. You can never pay him back.

2 (16m 48s):

He gave

1 (16m 48s):

You so much grace that it covers all your past present and future sins. He's not, he doesn't even say you don't have to pay me back.

2 (16m 55s):

It's a gift. All that you need

1 (16m 57s):

To do is receive it. And that's the second thing I want you to notice in this passage forward is by grace, you have been saved through faith. Faith. Faith is believing in or trusting in someone. So when we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we're saying what he did was enough. We're trusting him. We're having faith in him. We're believing in him. And that's how we receive it. I believe that what Jesus did on the cross,

2 (17m 19s):

This is enough. I, that I have this grace. So I'm receiving it. That's what faith is. But that's it right? That's pretty simple.

1 (17m 28s):

But here's the thing it's even better than this. It's even better than this. You guys ready for a little Greek lesson today?

2 (17m 35s):

Like

1 (17m 36s):

Two people ready for this. Okay. I want you to pay attention because some of your like Greek matte it's Greek to me. Yes, I get it. Okay. So I want you to focus and pay attention for just a minute versus for you

have been saved. And this is not from yourself that we're, this is very important here in the Greek, because in English we read it and we say, well, this, it has to refer back to something, right?

2 (17m 58s):

And there's two things behind it. There's grace and there's faith. So

1 (18m 3s):

Is this from yourself? So what's this from God that we receive as it is the grace, or is it the faith? So who in here thinks it's the grace that we receive from

2 (18m 11s):

God? We've got some hands.

1 (18m 13s):

Yep. Raising hands. Who thinks it's the faith we receive from him.

2 (18m 16s):

You got a few hands. Okay. You're both wrong. Here's the thing. This is the Greek lesson. Okay. Pay attention. Okay.

1 (18m 24s):

In Greek, there are masculine words. There are feminine words. Just like some of you, you know, Spanish or French, but in Greek, there's also new,

2 (18m 33s):

Better words. They're words that don't have a gender and innocence

1 (18m 37s):

Sentence. Things have to line up. So whatever this is, whatever the gender of this refers back. And it's going to tell us which one of those it refers to. Okay. We'll use to think grace is a feminine

2 (18m 46s):

Word. Faith. It's a feminine word too. So what is that?

1 (18m 52s):

This, if it's feminine, then it could be either one, right? We're still lost. But what is this in Greek? Actually a neutral

2 (18m 59s):

Word. So which one does it refer back to? It refers back to everything that comes before it.

1 (19m 7s):

So what is this from God? That's not from ourselves. The grace we receive God's riches at Christ's expense and the faith to even believe

2 (19m 15s):

Steve and Jesus. You got you me.

1 (19m 20s):

When you receive this grace, this forgiveness, this power in your life. It's from God. It's not from yourself. But even your ability to believe in Jesus, to have faith and say, I do trust him. That is also a gift

2 (19m 33s):

From God. You could

1 (19m 35s):

Not believe in him on your own. You can't say, Oh, I'm so glad that I have faith. When everyone else doubts that I'm smart enough to figure out that the resurrection actually did happen. The only historical viable, you know, verifiable event, that is the center of any faith we have, that we can look at the evidence, okay? I'm smart enough to figure that out. I'm smart enough to realize I want to be in heaven and not in hell. But even that ability to believe was gifted to you by

2 (19m 57s):

God. That's what this passage teaches us. It is

1 (20m 3s):

The gift of God. Not by works so that no one

2 (20m 5s):

Can boast. This is important. So Martin Luther the great reformer. This is what he wrote. So then,

1 (20m 13s):

And have we nothing to do for our own salvation? Have we nothing to do? No nothing at all for this righteousness comes by doing nothing.

2 (20m 24s):

You don't

1 (20m 24s):

Have to do anything. And even the ability to believe is a gift from God. You are saved entirely because of God and what he did on the cross through Jesus Christ. Not because of anything that you can or ever will,

2 (20m 38s):

Will do. So. So let's think about the mountain

1 (20m 43s):

Cave climbing Everest will it still feels like a mountain. It's still hard work. I have to do good stuff. I'm okay. All this stuff. Oh, there's storms in life too. Right there. Storms that knock us off the field, like terrible blizzards. And I want to give up, I don't have faith anymore. We see people that fall off the mountain. They can't make it. And we see that all around us. It feels like ever sometimes, but here's the reality. Here's the reality. And this is our big idea. Salvation. Isn't climbing Everest. It's getting carried the whole way. It may feel like it. Oh, we went so high up, man. We did so much, but you're getting carried the entire way. Every step, every minute, every moment, anybody here like to hike and we got some hikers in here, let's get in that season.

1 (21m 29s):

Right. And have you guys already gotten a hike in if you already have. I want to see some pictures online. Okay. Send me some pictures. Well, we love hiking it and we're getting ready for our hiking season. But Melissa and I have three little kids, two of them that are toddlers, can't hike very far. Right? So what do we get? Well, we have a couple of these now, right? You guys seen these, these are backpacks that are carrying backpacks. Okay. Anybody have one of these? We have two of them now because we have twins. We got to carry these babies. And I have a couple of pictures that I want to show you. This is a picture from last summer hearing my son Canaan. We were over in the Morrison area on a hike. And the next photo, this, this allows our whole family to go on hikes.

1 (22m 12s):

Right? You can, they can can you know, she has to walk a little bit, right? It's kind of rough for her, but she did it. And that's what we're gonna do. We're getting excited for some new hikes this season. I have one more photo too. That's my daughter McKinley at nine months. I think we were up in silver thorn area, hiking. And it was such a hard hike for her. Right. And she fell asleep. She made it all the way to the peak and back worked so hard. Right. And the whole time she was getting carried, that's how our faith is. Okay. We're in the backpack. We're in the backpack. Okay. We think we're carrying the load.

1 (22m 52s):

God is carrying us. That's what's really going on. See, the grace is the fact that he's willing to carry us. And the faith is like the backpack itself. We're like, okay, look at my, my faith. I'm holding on so hard. No, no, no, no. You're just resting in the back. You're getting carried the whole way. We even look at it and say, Oh my gosh, I went through the worst storms of my life. They were so hard. And they are. We talk about how hard

storms are at this church. There suffering they're tragedies in our life. There are difficulties, but even through the worst storms, we are getting carried by God. By grace, you have been saved through faith. And this, all of it is not from yourselves.

1 (23m 32s):

It is the gift of God. Not by works so that no one can boast. That's why we say it's grace at the beginning, forgive you of your sins. It's grace along every minute of the route. And it's grace at the end. It's only grace.

2 (23m 47s):

That salvation is in the Christian faith. That's what we believe. And this is radical for some of us because we think we're the ones carrying the load. Oh, it's so hard. No, no, no, no. You are getting carried the whole way. This is what we believe. This is the gospel. The good news of Jesus Christ. You get carried. So what does this mean for us? The first thing we should be incredibly grateful. Do you realize how thankful we can be because of this? If, if your sins are taken away, because of nothing you have done, if you have the power to live every moment of your life to follow Jesus. And then at the end, when you go through the worst trials, because we go through the worst trials at the end of our lives, it's going to be hard.

2 (24m 33s):

Our bodies are going to break down. There will be pain and we will face death. But at every moment of the way, it's, God's grace that carries you further and further and further until you do reach heaven. You realize that we should be so thankful for this. This should make our hearts leap for joy. If we're already believers, we should say, wow, wow, I didn't deserve any of this. I didn't earn any of this. I couldn't pay him back. It's all the grace of God. This should make our hearts leap for joy and want to worship him. When we come on Sunday, we come together to worship. And then throughout the weeks, we can be thankful to God at every moment. Well, I'm so glad he forgave me of that. I I'm so glad that even though I've fallen down right now and I don't have the grace to believe, God will pick me up again and carry me again.

2 (25m 19s):

His grace for me in every moment of every day, no matter how many times we fall or fall away, God says, come, come again. I want to carry you. That should have a heart of gratitude and thankfulness. So that's the first thing that they should change in our life. We should be thankful. Second thing, we should be incredibly humble. People think about it. If, if, to even start your journey, God had to give you grace to forgive your past, to continue your journey. It was God's strength, kind of carrying you along the whole way. And if at the very end, it's going to be him pushing you over the finish line to make it to the, to the beak. We should be so humble.

2 (25m 59s):

We didn't do it. We're not even smart enough on our own to choose God. He chose us. He saved us. Okay, get this. God didn't save you because you're good. He didn't even save you because you will be good. He

saves you because he is good. No, I'm serious. He didn't save you because you're good. Cause you weren't, he didn't save you because you will be good. All the good things that you will do and serve him. No, no, no. He saved you because he is good. You could never pay him back for what he's done for you. I love this in the Bible. I've read this a few weeks ago in my morning, devotions in Deuteronomy chapter nine. And this verse just like popped out at me.

2 (26m 40s):

And I want you to see this. He's talking to the Israelites here, his chosen people.

1 (26m 44s):

And he says, you must recognize that the Lord, your God is not giving you this

2 (26m 48s):

Because you are good for you or not. You are a stubborn people.

1 (26m 56s):

God saying, I chose you. Not because you're good. You're still not good. You're stubborn. You're sinful. You complain about going into the promised land. I'm giving you this because

2 (27m 5s):

I am good. And that's how God is. He

1 (27m 10s):

Doesn't even save us. Cause all the good things we will do to serve

2 (27m 12s):

People and change the world now saves us because he is good because he is good. So we should therefore be very, very humble. We can't have

1 (27m 22s):

Pride about anything. We can't have pride about the good things we do because it's, God's power working in us to do it. When we serve someone, we know it's his Holy spirit that empowers us to serve. When we give money, we know that he gave us everything that we have.

2 (27m 35s):

How could we not respond with generosity? And even at the beginning, when we say, wow, I was smart enough to believe. No, no, no, you weren't smart enough. God gave you the gift to believe. He empowered you to believe that's what the scriptures teach us. Not because we're good. So we should be so humble. Right? And we shouldn't look down on people that are outside our faith and thinking, wow, how could they be

so foolish? How could they go straight in to know we have compassion on them and love them and want them to come in. Not because we haven't figured it out. We're not like the smartest people in world. God gave us the gift of faith. That's incredible. So we should be the most humble people on the planet.

2 (28m 16s):

God carries us to the top because he's good. Not because we are so that's, that's the third thing or the second thing, we should be humble. Here's the third thing too. We should also be extremely confident. We should be extremely confident. Humble being humble. Doesn't mean you're not confident. We should be humble and extremely confident

1 (28m 34s):

Because if it was not us at the beginning that started with God gave us the gift of faith. If we continue on our hard work of this Christian life, because God empowers us and we make it to the end because God is great.

2 (28m 45s):

Gracious to us. We should be confident to say, Hey, nothing I can do can mess this up. When I sin again, there's grace for me and forgiveness for me. And I can start again. When I doubt God can help me again. I should be confident in everything because God saves us. It's grace, the whole way up the mountain to the peak, we should be so confident as people.

1 (29m 8s):

I love this. Lisa TerKeurst said that God's love isn't based on you. It's

2 (29m 13s):

Placed on you. He, he plays, he

1 (29m 17s):

Loves us. He chooses us. He gives us grace

2 (29m 21s):

So we can be confident. I'm not going to lose it. I'm not going to mess it up. God knows

1 (29m 26s):

It was me. He knows my future. He has grace for me at every moment of every day,

2 (29m 30s):

Till I stopped breathing, we should be confident in our lives to move ahead in faith and following after him, third thing is confidence, right? But here's the fourth thing. And this is the most important

1 (29m 42s):

We need to accept this gift. I think, well, it doesn't God give the gift of faith. Yes, but he stirs in our hearts. And I know some of you are hearing this maybe for the first time, maybe finally understanding the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. You're like, I always thought it was works. I always thought it was one of those three variations we talked about. Okay. But maybe for the first time, you're understanding this. You need to accept it. And as God is stirring in your heart, some of you are like, that sounds really good. I want it to be true. That's God giving you the gift of faith right now. He's stirring your heart to believe and it's time to respond and receive that gift it. So, so this is so important and why I'm saying this, because I know that there are some of you have never grasped it until maybe this moment.

1 (30m 25s):

And I'm saying this to people that have maybe gone to church, their whole life, been to Christian school, went to Christian college. Some have even gone to seminary, gone into ministry and didn't understand this. They thought I need to work hard. And that's why I'm doing all these things. I need to be a better person. I need to serve. And I need to give so that I can earn my salvation. No, no, no, no, no. You need to accept this gift. When I was preaching in my church in Nebraska, I was there five and a half years. And I think it was like year three or four. I was there and there was one Sunday. I preached on this message of grace with a, with the Bible actually teaches us. And there were two 70 year olds gone to church, their whole life, 70 plus years.

1 (31m 6s):

And they accepted Christ for the first time, because you can think it's work sports work searchers, but it's not. You've got to receive the gift of grace that comes only in Jesus Christ. It's grace at the beginning, grace at the end. So I I'm, I'm pleading with some of you open up your mind to understand that this is what we believe. This is the gospel. Salvation is not climbing Everest. It's getting

2 (31m 27s):

Carried the entire way by someone else by God, himself through Jesus Christ. So

1 (31m 34s):

Saying this because some of you need to accept this gift today to receive it, to have your sins forgiven, but then to have a grace that empowers you every moment of your life. And we'll be there at the very end, because we're going to be like, man, I can't make it to the top.

2 (31m 48s):

You can't, but God will carry you. He is faithful. He will do it.

1 (31m 56s):

So I just want to give an opportunity right now to respond in faith. And that's what we do. We have a sinner's

prayer that we pray at the end of every one of our services here so that people can maybe for the first time, except this gift of grace and some of you need to do it. Some of you watching online. So what we do is we have everyone close their eyes. And I know a lot of you are believers in Jesus Christ already. I want you to say this prayer out loud, repeating after me to give courage to somebody who needs to pray it for the first time. And there are some of you who need to say this prayer and accept this grace from Jesus Christ for the first time. So you're going to declare that Jesus Lord, if you believe in your heart, Jesus, Lord, and declare with your mouth. God raised him from the dead. You will be saved. So please repeat this prayer after me in person and online,

2 (32m 37s):

Dear God, thank you for loving me. I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Save me. I receive your grace in faith. I declare Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your spirit. Help me to follow you and serve you until I reach heaven. And with eyes closed still everybody's eyes closed. If you said that prayer for the first time and meant it, you receive this gospel of grace for the first time in your heart.

2 (33m 17s):

Would you please slip your hand in the air? I want to just be able to encourage you and pray for you. Praise God, praise God. If you can go to rise, denver.com/connect. There's a button that says I decided to follow Jesus, press that button, fill it out. I have a gift that I want to send to you. I just want to encourage you on this journey because God will do it. He will bring you through. He will bring you all the way till the end through his grace. Let's pray for everyone. Lord God. I just pray a blessing on every man, woman and child in this building online, anyone who can hear my voice, Lord God, I pray that they would realize that it's grace, that saved them from the beginning and it's grace. That brings them every single step of the way their entire salvation is through your grace.

2 (34m 2s):

And because of that, Lord, God, we are incredibly thankful. We worship you. And we're grateful. We're also humbled because we know we didn't do this on our own. We are so humble, but we also have a confidence in you. And we're so grateful that you saved us. Not because of anything in us. Not because we're good or we're going to be good, but because you are good and Lord God, we accept that gift again, except that gift of grace help us walk in that grace live in that grace, lay our burdens down and realize that you are carrying us at every moment of every day through every storm until we reach heaven. Thank you, God, Jesus name, we pray.

2 (34m 42s):

Amen. Would you please stand as we in thankfulness in gratitude worship, our good, good father.