

Genesis 3:20-24 - An Illustration Of How God Can Punish Sin Without Punishing The Sinner

Memory Verse

Genesis 1:1 NKJV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Outline (Genesis 3:20-24)

1. A new beginning for mankind—Eve the mother of all living (3:20)
2. The first death—God institutes animal sacrifice as the way man can enjoy fellowship with Himself (3:21)
3. God takes away our sin and shame by clothing us with His righteousness (3:21)
4. What kind of garment was the tunic? How does God define what is modest? (3:21)
5. How God punishes sin without punishing the sinner (3:21)
6. If Jesus paid for the sin of all mankind, then why do some people still go to hell? (3:21)
7. Appreciating God's great love for us (3:21)
8. Banished from the Garden—a picture of the broken relationship between God and man (3:22-24)

Genesis 3:20-24 NKJV

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

1. A new beginning for mankind—Eve, the mother of all living

Genesis 3:20 NKJV

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

What was Eve called before Adam named her?

v 20 **And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living:** Eve did not receive her name until after the fall. In the time before the fall, while still living in the garden of Eden, she was called; female (Genesis 1:27), a helper comparable (Genesis 2:18), a wife (Genesis 2:24, 25; 3:8), and *Woman* (Genesis 2:22-23).

Woman: Explaining why the woman takes her name from her husband

And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; **she shall be called Woman [Heb: *Ishshah*], Because she was taken out of Man [Hebrew: *Ish*]."**

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Adam was *Ish*, and Eve was *Ishshah*. Literally, Adam named his wife after himself. This is why the woman takes her husband's name when she marries. *In a very real way, a woman finds her identity in who she marries, so she should be extremely careful about who she chooses to marry.* The reason is that she must submit to his authority over her, and so follow his lead—therefore she becomes more like her husband, than her husband becomes like her.

The same is true when it comes to the believer. Every believer is a part of the bride of Christ. Therefore, just like Eve's identity was found in Adam, the believer's identity is found in Christ—we become like Him, He doesn't become like us.

2 Corinthians 3:18 AMP

And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

A common name for Adam and Eve—Mankind

Genesis 5:1b-2 NKJV

In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female, and blessed them **and called them *Mankind* in the day they were created.**

What this shows is that both sexes are encompassed in terms like *mankind*, *foreman*, *chairman*, and *humanity* etc. What used to be the cultural norm only a few decades ago is actually biblical.

Adam names his wife "Eve"

v 20 **And Adam called his wife's name Eve [life], because she was the mother of all living:** Here we see Adam stepping out in faith. Yes, he messed up. Yes, there would be consequences and life would be hard. But God had given them hope in the coming Messiah who would one day defeat satan. Adam knew that the Messiah would be the Seed of the woman, and that this coming Messiah or Saviour would bring eternal life, restoring their broken relationship with God. Therefore, Adam names his wife Eve, literally "life". Remember that Eve was not even pregnant yet. There has never been anyone born yet. But Adam trusted God's promise that the Deliverer would be a descendant of the woman—thus Adam naming her Eve is an act of faith.

2. The first death—God institutes animal sacrifice as the way of fellowshiping with Himself

Genesis 3:21 NKJV

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Remember that they had never seen death before. Before sin there was no death. Nothing died before the fall.

Romans 5:12a NLT

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death.

Now, Adam and Eve had to watch, probably in absolute shock and horror, as God killed an animal (or animals) in front of them. This was a well timed object lesson in the terrible consequences of sin—that poor innocent animal had to die because of their own choice to sin. Again, the knowledge that they were directly responsible for the death of that innocent animal—that the innocent animal died in their place, as a result of their sin, would have really brought home to them both the seriousness of God's warning to them: If you sin, you will die.

God also most likely demonstrated and explained to them how they now had to approach Him to fellowship with Him—they must come with an animal sacrifice. This would be a constant reminder that their sin had separated them from God, and that it would take the death of the Messiah, the Seed of the woman, as the one payment for all sin for all time to reconcile them back to God. Although the animal sacrifices were a part of the law, the fact is that God instituted them right back at the garden of Eden, just without all the extra rituals that accompanied them. Also, it started out as one animal for one person. Later, at the exodus, it was one lamb for a family, then at the giving of the law it was one lamb for the nation, and then when Jesus came, it was one Lamb for the whole world.

Hebrews 10:1-10 NLT

The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. ² If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared.

³ **But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year.**

⁴ **For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.** ⁵ That is why, when Christ came into the world, He said to God,

“You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings.

But you have given me a body to offer.

⁶ You were not pleased with burnt offerings
or other offerings for sin.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will, O God—
as is written about me in the Scriptures.’ ”

⁸ First, Christ said, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were You pleased with them” (though they are required by the law of Moses). ⁹ **Then He [Jesus] said, “Look, I have come to do Your will.” He cancels the first [old] covenant in order to put the second [new covenant] into effect.** ¹⁰ **For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.**

3. God takes away our sin and shame by clothing us with His righteousness

Genesis 3:21 NKJV

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

After killing the animal(s), God did something else that they probably didn’t expect. He used the skins of the animals to make clothes for Adam and Eve. Why did Adam and Eve need to be clothed? Because of the shame of sin. Remember that their physical nakedness is only a picture of their emotional and spiritual nakedness, or complete openness and transparency before God and man. They were naked before the fall, but back then they had no sin to hide, nothing to be ashamed of—they were innocent—they didn’t need to be clothed because there was no sin to cover, they were still perfect. Again, before the fall, Adam and Eve were completely transparent, completely open.

However, after the fall, they were guilty of sin, which is rebellion against God. Sin caused them to feel shame and fear; shame for doing the wrong thing, and fear of the consequences—eternal death in the Lake of Fire (Hell). This is why Adam and Eve hid from God—they were both afraid and ashamed.

Genesis 3:8-10 NKJV

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

The animal skins that God clothed Adam and Eve with represented, or are an illustration of, the righteousness of God—perfection. So if anybody puts their trust in the Messiah for the forgiveness of their sins, believing that He would die (Old Testament), or did die (New Testament), in their place as the payment for their sin, then there is no more sin or shame—God sees them as being perfectly righteous like He is, as having lived a perfect life. This should make us greatly rejoice.

Isaiah 61:10a NKJV

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

4. What kind of garment was the tunic? How does God define what is modest dress?

Genesis 3:21 NKJV

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made **tunics** of skin, and clothed them.

The **tunic** is a long garment, probably reaching from the shoulders to the knees. Joseph's coat of many colours was a **tunic**. The priests also wore **tunics** over their undergarments. The Hebrew word pronounced *Kut-to-net*, is also translated as **robe**, **coat**, and **garments**. This teaches us that God desires us to dress modestly. The idea is that we cover any naked flesh or skin, at least down to just above the knees

Genesis 9:23 NKJV

But Shem and Japheth took a **garment**, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

Ezekiel 28:42 AMP (talking about how the priests must dress as they serve the Lord)

You shall make for them [white] linen trunks (pants/shorts) **to cover their naked flesh (skin)**, reaching from the waist to the thighs.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 NLT

And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes. ¹⁰ For women who claim to be devoted to God should make themselves attractive by the good things they do.

Genesis 37:3 NKJV

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a **tunic** of many colours.

Leviticus 8:13 NLT

Next Moses presented Aaron's sons. He clothed them in their **tunics**, tied their sashes around them.

2 Samuel 13:18 NKJV

Now she had on a **robe** of many colours, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel.

Isaiah 22:21a NKJV

I will clothe him with your **robe** and strengthen him with your belt.

The modern trend to wear less clothing, and show more skin and shape, is nothing more than yet another way sinful man has found to rebel against his Maker. At the heart of it, mankind is becoming so brazen about their sin, that they don't even try to hide it anymore—they are so hard hearted that they don't even feel shame anymore. Wearing skimpy clothing is just hard hearted and sinful man shaking their fist at God, refusing to admit that they are sinners in need of the Saviour, that they need to be clothed with God's righteousness (which is what clothing is a picture of).

5. How God punishes sin without punishing the sinner

Genesis 3:21 NKJV

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

The Illustration

The innocent animal's dying in the place of the very guilty Adam and Eve, is a beautiful, powerful, and poignant picture of the substitutionary atonement, of the innocent Christ dying in the place of sinful mankind. Consider the illustration that God is giving us; the sin of Adam and Eve was transferred to the innocent animal, who then was considered guilty and so had to die. On the other hand, the sinful Adam and Eve could go on living, all the while being considered innocent. Maybe God asked Adam and Eve to place their hands on the head of the animal(s) and confess their sins before He slaughtered it? This is how it was done under the Law of Moses.

Leviticus 4:29 NKJV

And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and kill the sin offering at the place of the burnt offering.

Again, the innocent animal died so that the guilty Adam and Eve could live. What a powerful picture, a wonderful illustration of God's plan of salvation. In the same way, all the sin of guilty man has been transferred to the perfect Christ. Jesus came to earth as a man, lived a perfect life, and then willingly died in the place of guilty mankind; this is called the *substitutionary atonement*.

God as the perfect judge

But why does it have to be this way? Why is this event, the illustration of the innocent animal dying in the place of sinful mankind, so important? Because God is not only perfectly loving, but also perfectly just. Just like His love knows no bounds, so does His justice. This means that *every sin must be punished*. God can't just arbitrarily say He forgives us if the penalty for the sin has not been paid—that would make Him an unjust or unrighteous judge, and He would no longer be perfect.

Hosea 9:9 NLT

The things my people do are as depraved as what they did in Gibeah long ago. God will not forget. He will surely punish them for their sins.

Isaiah 59:12 NLT

For our sins are piled up before God and testify against us. Yes, we know what sinners we are.

Galatians 6:7 NLT

Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

Deuteronomy 6:14-15 NLT

"You must not worship any of the gods of neighbouring nations, ¹⁵ for the LORD your God, who lives among you, is a jealous God. His anger will flare up against you, and he will wipe you from the face of the earth.

Substitutionary atonement—God punishes an innocent man for the sin of the guilty man—Himself being the innocent man

So now the question becomes, *"How can God punish sin without punishing the sinner?"* God wants to restore relationship with us, but at the same time He must judge all sin. The answer is that God satisfies His own justice—He Himself takes our place and pays our fine. Why does God Himself do this? *Because God is the only one Who can. Only a perfect man can die in the place of a guilty man, and Jesus is the only perfect man who ever lived.* Genesis 22 is a beautiful illustration of the *substitutionary atonement, of the Father giving up His only Son, the Son He loves, as an offering for the sin of all mankind.*

An illustration: Picture yourself before a judge, being found guilty as charged. Your fine is one million dollars or life in prison. You don't have one million dollars and so know that you will spend the rest of your life in prison. However, after pronouncing you guilty, the judge steps down from behind the bench, and offers you a choice. He says, "I love you and I want you to be free. I have already sold everything I have to get enough money to pay your fine." He then leaves the one million dollars in front of you—it is yours for the taking—if you want it. Will you accept the money and walk out of the courtroom a free man, thanking the generous judge for his great sacrifice on your behalf? Or will you be stubborn, saying, "I don't need anyone's help. Thanks, but no thanks." And leave the money that the good judge gave you unused in the courtroom as you are led off to prison.

Remember that God has paid all our fines. The penalty for sin is death. Jesus's death on the cross was the full payment for all sins of all people—once for all time.

2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Notice in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that there are two transactions—both complete and permanent if accepted or received :

1. Our sin is transferred to Jesus
2. Jesus's righteousness is transferred to us

2 Corinthians 5:21 (my paraphrase)

1. *Our sin is transferred to Jesus*—For [the Father] made [Christ Jesus] who [was perfect, He never sinned], to [become guilty with all our sin—all mankind's sin was transferred to Him] for [our benefit alone].
2. *Jesus's righteousness is transferred to us*—That [sinful mankind] might become [as righteous, holy, and perfect as God is] in [Christ].

John 1:29 NKJV

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Hebrews 9:26b-27a NLT

But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

²⁷ And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people.

Psalms 103:12 NKJV

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

1 John 2:2 AMP

And He [that same Jesus Himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours alone but also for [the sins of] the whole world.

6. If Jesus paid for the sin of all mankind, then why do some people still go to hell?

After all that God has done for sinful mankind to be saved, there is no excuse for anyone who chooses to go to Hell—it's completely their choice. ***People only go to Hell because they have willingly chosen to refuse to accept the Father's free gift—the life of His one and only beloved Son, Jesus Christ.***

The Holy Spirit makes it known to all men that this most amazing and most generous and most costly gift is available for anyone who wishes to receive it. The only sin that can't be forgiven is the sin of refusing to receive God's free gift. Remember that a gift by definition must be received, otherwise it is not a gift. You could compare this to someone who is drowning at sea. They are thrown a life ring, but refuse to take hold of it. As a result they drown. The blame for their death is entirely on them. The rescuer did all they could to save them, but the person simply didn't want to be saved. It's like the previous illustration where the million dollars was there, but not used.

John 16:8-9a NLT

And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. ⁹ **The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in Me [Jesus].**

Romans 5:15 NKJV

But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Romans 15:15-19 NLT

But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and **God's gracious gift**. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of forgiveness to many through this other Man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁶ And **the result of God's gracious gift** is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but **God's free gift leads to our being made right with God**, even though we are guilty of many sins. ¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is **God's wonderful grace** and His **gift of righteousness**, for **all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death** through this One Man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, **but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.**

¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because One other Person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

Ezekiel 18:30-32 NLT

“Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD. Repent, and turn from your sins. Don’t let them destroy you! ³¹ Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? ³² **I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live!**

7. Appreciating God’s great love for us

While this was good news for Adam and Eve, it must have made them feel incredibly convicted and sorrowful, as they understood just how much suffering and pain their sin had caused someone else. God had told them that they would die, but they didn’t. Instead, God killed an animal who died instead of them. They would have understood that the sheep or lamb represented the coming Messiah. They would have understood that the way the coming Messiah would defeat Satan, and take away their sin, would be by dying in their place. They would have realised that their sin caused the Messiah’s death. They would have realised that this was all of grace—completely and totally undeserved.

Romans 5:6-11 NLT

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ **But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.** ⁹ And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. ¹⁰ **For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies,** we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP

Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

Titus 3:3-7 NLT

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other.

⁴ But—When God our Saviour revealed His kindness and love, ⁵ He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life [regeneration] through the Holy Spirit. ⁶ He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. ⁷ Because of His grace He made us right in His sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

3. Banished from the Garden—a picture of the broken relationship between God and man

Genesis 3:22-24 NKJV

Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

v 22 **Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil:** I wish we didn’t know evil. The experiential knowledge of sin and the pain it causes is something that we would all like to forget.

v 22 **And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:** Simply put, God didn’t want sinful man to remain in his sinful state for eternity. The tree of life would have sustained their physical lives, but not changed their character or status—they would still be guilty sinners with a sin nature, and God did not want Adam and Eve to spend eternity wrestling against the sinful desires of their sin cursed bodies. This is why we have the hope of the resurrection—we look forward to a new body without a sin nature, a body incapable of sinning—a perfect body that can inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:42-50 NLT

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. ⁴³ Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. ⁴⁴ They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

⁴⁵ The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. ⁴⁶ What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. ⁴⁷ Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. ⁴⁸ Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. ⁴⁹ **Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.**

⁵⁰ **What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.**

1 John 3:1-3 NLT

See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know Him. ² **Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but He has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is.** ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as He is pure.

v 23 **Therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken:** Not only was God protecting Adam from eating from the Tree of Life, but He was allowing Adam and Eve to experience the consequences of their sin—thorns and thistles. Instead of easy work they were used to in the garden of Eden, they would spend most of their days pulling weeds in what was now a sin cursed world.

v 24 **So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim [powerful angels] at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life:** We know why God prohibited them from going back into the garden of Eden, but there is another interesting theory regarding the cherubim. Cherubim are always in the presence of God, both in heaven, and also their image is on the mercy seat where God used to meet with man. Maybe this could be the meeting place where man could come and offer a sacrifice to God and enjoy fellowship with God? Maybe this is where Cain and Able came to offer their sacrifices?

Summary and Conclusion

Why did God clothe Adam and Eve in *tunics of skin*?

1. *It is a picture that shows the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus in the place of man*

In order for Adam and Eve to be clothed, the animal had to die, a sacrifice had to be made. “Adam and Eve were clothed in a garment that was purchased with the life of another. We are clothed with a garment of righteousness that was purchased with the life of another, Jesus Christ.” (David Guzik)

Hebrews 9:22 NLT

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood [death], there is no forgiveness.

2. *The animal skins replaced their fig leaf clothes—the gospel of grace vs the false gospel of works or legalism*

“There are only two religions; there is the religion of fig leaves and there is the religion of God’s perfect provision through Jesus. Covering ourselves with our good works is like Adam and Eve trying to cover themselves with fig leaves. Our good works are like monopoly money—great for monopoly, but not legal tender. Your good works are essential to what it takes to live out your life, but they are not legal tender before God.” (David Guzik)

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 AMP

For it is by free grace (God’s unmerited favour) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ’s salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; ⁹ Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law’s demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]

Galatians 5:1-5 NLT

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law [trying to earn God’s favour by good works].

² Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision [good works] to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ I’ll say it again. If you are trying to find favour with God by being circumcised [doing good works, trying to be good], you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. ⁴ For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! [no longer walking in fellowship with Him] You have fallen away from God’s grace [no longer living by faith in what God has done for us].

⁵ **But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us [Christ’s righteousness, as illustrate by the tunics of skin].**