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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

Why is the idea of Christ plus something else dangerous? In what ways does adding to salvation distort our understanding of God and detract from Christ's glory?

If God has shown us grace through Jesus, how should this affect our interactions with other people in our lives? In what ways do you struggle with showing and receiving grace?

What distinguishes saving faith from mere intellectual assent to facts about Jesus? Why is it so important that saving faith produces good works?

Is it possible to have assurance of salvation without bearing any fruit of the Spirit?

SERIES: God 's Story - Part 2

NEXT WEEK

Our Mission: The Mission, the Message, and the Messenger

- Acts 1:4-8
- 1 Cor 1:18-25
- 2 Cor 5:14-17

Our Identity: The Grace-Shaped Family of God
Acts 15:1-5; Gal 2:15-21; James 2:18-26

In this lesson we look at how the early church dealt with a controversy over what constitutes a true believer in Christ. At stake in this discussion was the nature of grace. In Jerusalem, the apostles came together to proclaim that the church is united by faith in Christ's work on the cross and by the fruit that flows from faith-filled hearts. Even today, sheer grace incorporates us into the family of God, shapes us as a people, and strengthens us for Christ's mission.

Works-based religion threatens the centrality of faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 15:1-5)

Key Points and References

- It is not our works, but faith through which we are given the right to be called children of God (**John 1:9-13**)
- It is not our works, but by God that our salvation is accomplished (**Eph 2:8-9**)
- It is not our righteousness, but through God's inward circumcision of us that keeps us from not being lawbreakers (**Rom 2:23-29**)

God's people are constituted by grace alone through faith in Jesus alone (Gal. 2:15-21)

Key Points and References

- God's grace sent Jesus to redeem us (**Rom 8:2-3**)
- The Law could never save us, only God's grace (**Heb 10:1**)
- Our righteousness comes through faith in God's grace (**Rom 3:22-24**)
- We are justified through faith in God's grace (**Rom 5:1-2**)

God's people are marked by faith in Jesus alone that results in good works (Jas. 2:18-26)

Key Points and References

- Our good works can only come through faith and the power of God (**1 Thess 1:3-7**)
- It is God's grace that makes us zealous for good works (**Titus 2:11-14**)
- It is through our unity of faith that God prepares us for good works (**Eph 4:11-16**)
- Our faith gives us hope that our good works will never be in vain (**1 Cor 15:58**)
- God created His people for good works (**Eph 2:10**)

(Adapted from "The Gospel Project"™: LifeWay Christian Resources Volume 1, Number 3 Spring 2013)