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*"Turning to the Word of God when espresso coffee doesn't cut it!"*

A BLOG & News Letter By: Kyle & JJ

## "Saved By Grace... BUT..."

Lately on campus (Kennesaw State University), we've been running into those who believe that Salvation is by "Works," though they will not say it straight up. It normally goes like this, "Saved by grace, BUT..." Others even preach that we MUST follow and keep all the commandments in the New Testament (AKA, works) to remain saved. They believe that our righteousness comes from our own efforts, though they will side-step you if you try to get them to affirm that they believe salvation is gained by good deeds.

Recently, Kyle and I had a little discussion with several men that preach that salvation is only kept by following the

commandments in the Bible. Honestly, we did poorly in the defense of our Gospel. This Saturday we read the book of Titus and were challenged by the following verse:

*"...holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict." - Titus 1:9 (NASB)*

After our reading of Titus, we had Danny lead us in a Bible Study on "Salvation by Grace Alone." He also previously had a discussion with one of the same gentlemen that we talked to, so he already had a solid argument put together from his little "discussion." In this issue of our CCA News Letter, we submit to you the



outline to a solid argument on the defense of what the Bible truly teaches about our Salvation...

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

- Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

*To read the full article, turn to Page 3...*

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Join us every Saturday morning at 9:30am for a good cup of coffee, the Word of God and Great Fellowship!

**December 2007**  
Volume 1, Issue 1

### Issue Notes:

- Our preferred Bible Translation is the New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- We also are now using the Holmen Christian Standard Bible (CSB) translation with our Apologetics Bible by Holmen Publishing.
- By Default, if not otherwise stated, quoted verses/passages are in NASB
- Another good Bible Translation is the New International Version (NIV)
- **Contributors to This News Letter:** Danny and Kelsey

### Highlight CCA Posts:

- **"How I Found The Lord"**  
By Kyle—Dec. 9, 2007
- **"Be The Acorn"**  
By Kyle—Nov. 7, 2007
- **"My Story"**  
By Kelsey—Dec. 1, 2007
- **"Espresso VS Instant Coffee"**  
By JJ—Nov 24, 2007

Go to [CoffeeCupApologetics.com](http://CoffeeCupApologetics.com) to read these posts. Just click on the month of the post in our Archive

## Featured CCA Post: -- CoffeeCupApologetics -- What's CoffeeCupApologetics.com About

*"I go out to preach with two propositions in mind. First - every person ought to give his life to Christ. Second - whether or not anyone else gives Him his life, I will give Him mine."*  
- Jonathan Edwards

-- [I was] reading a chapter on "Teaching The Word of God" for my GCLI Leadership Course, and I ran into the [previous quote]. I also read these awesome verses and quotes that hit it on the money on what Coffee-Cup-Apologetics (CCA) is founded on... "...Knowledge puffs up,

but love builds up." - 1 Corinthians 8:1b (NIV)  
The foundation for our zeal of God's Word is "Love."  
- Love for God and His Living Word (The Bible)  
- Love for others so as to see all come to the knowledge of His saving Grace.

Featured CCA Post Article Continued On page 2...



## What's CoffeeCupApologetics.com About: (Continued)

**Jeremiah 20:9 (NASB)** - But if I say, "I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name," Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding it in, And I cannot endure it.

"A message from the head will reach the head. A message from the heart will reach the heart." - Leanard Ravenhill (Wow!)

"I love those that thunder out the Word. The Christian world is in a deep sleep. Nothing but a loud voice can awaken them out of it." - George Whitefield

"I preach as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men." - Richard Baxter

"We must preach as to jeopardize our future, our ministry, even our life itself. We must make God responsible for the consequences and speak as one who will not have long to speak before being called to judgment. Then the people will know they are hearing a voice and not a mere echo." A.W. Tozer (*That's the kind of passion I want!*)

**1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NASB)** - 1) And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2) For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

"You can mark it down. If there is a message going out that is powerful, someone has paid a price somewhere in sweat, tears and heartbreak." - Jerry Falwell

**Psalms 111:10 (NASB)** - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

"According to this verse, understanding comes through following God's precepts. For that McCheyne said, 'Above all cultivate your own spirit. A word spoken by you when your conscience is clear and your heart full of God's Spirit, is worth 10,000 words spoken in unbelief and sin.'" - John Hopler (Great Commission Association, Columbus, Ohio)

**CCA** - This project, Blog, or call it what you will, is the outcome of two guys that are in love with God and have a zeal for His Living Word the Bible! Kyle and I dreamed up this little blog (web site) as an outlet to our zeal. Like the quotes and verses state above, the foundation for our desire to grow in our apologetic skills is "love."

-- Kyle and I have been meeting at a coffee shop for a few weekends now and we caught ourselves discouraged and complaining about the lack of zeal for God, His Word and for Radical Christian Living all around us... So we decided to stop the whining and start living out this passion we have for our God.

-- Now, Kyle for some time [wanted] to start an "apologetics" news letter for our church and friends, so he brought it up again and I mentioned the idea of starting a blog on apologetics. He liked the idea and we began to brain storm... After a few minutes of going back and forth with ideas He came up with "Coffee Cup Apologetics" Being that we meet for coffee every week and linking the theme of down to earth relaxing environment of a coffee shop, and our discussions on God's word (apologetics), he came up with the name... "CoffeeCupApologetics.com." We're all about the "meat and potatoes" of apologetics like Kyle likes to call it. We want to use apologetics not to put down other's wrong beliefs, but to show others that God loves

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them and through our knowledge of our faith, lead others to the knowledge of God's saving Grace (the gospel). We want the foundation and the motivation of our zeal to preach the gospel to be rooted in a genuine love and compassion for others...

**Ephesians 4:15 (NASB)** - but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.

"I do not expect to live long... therefore I speak very plainly" - Robert Murray McCheyne

**Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)** - Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

**"If you have not me us, you have missed little. If you have not met our Savior, you have missed everything."**

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## "Saved By Grace... BUT..." (Continued)

It's Friday Night, we're all chatting before we get started, and a new guest approaches me and asked me, "Do your women wear veils?" It caught me by surprise; I mean, hello how are you, DO YOUR WOMEN WEAR VEILS?" This is a strange way to start a conversation with someone you have never met before, wouldn't you agree? Either way, it took me some time before I realized that the gentleman was leading me into a discussion on his version of the "gospel." He basically wanted to establish that our church was breaking one of the commandments in the New Testament (women not wearing their veils), and then tell me that I was not saved if I was not obeying all the commandments in the New Testament. Or at least that's what I was understanding.

Well, like I mentioned already, Kyle (who was with me) and I did poorly at defending our position on what we know to be true; that Salvation is by grace alone and not based on being "good." So in light of our little debate, the guys and I decided to sharpen up our knowledge of God's awesome Word (The Bible) on our CCA session the following Saturday morning.

What follows is an outline that refutes the argument that the gentleman gave us. Of course, not all discussions will follow the same pattern, so we suggest that you learn the tips given and that you learn the verses and passages so that you can be ready to defend your faith; even more importantly that you may be able to lead someone to the knowledge of God's saving Grace.

We have not written out all the Bible passages. We encourage you to read them from your own Bible...

### Foundation for Their Argument:

This is the verse the gentleman used for his argument: 1 John 2:3-4

**Answer:** 1 John 2:1-2

Easy, just read the full context of the passage (like it should be done with all scripture. Always take verses in their full context not just

isolated like they were doing).

"...we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins..."

**TIP:** These guys where "gun slinging!" they were going VERY fast and it was hard to keep up with them. SO, make sure you slow down the conversation and don't let them move on to another verse until you can refute it. Don't move on until you can read the full context of the verse. When you explain to them a verse, ask them "What does this mean?" You want to try to lead them to acknowledge what the passage really is talking about.

**If they are not convinced, take them to your next verse: Romans 9:16**

**Depends on God's Mercy (Not "works")**

Give them a chance to try to explain there way out of this one. When they give you another verse to refute you, take them to the next verse: **Ephesians 1:13-14**

Explain to them what it means to be "sealed" by the Holy Spirit. You can use **Esther 8:8** to illustrate this analogy used by Paul.

**Continue with the following two passages: Ephesians 2:8-9 & Titus 3:4-5**

(Read them at the same time, one after the other. Use them together)

**"Not on the Basis of good deeds"**

**Counter:** They might use Ephesians 2:10 against you...

**Answer:** Explain... Just said NOT by works in verse 9, why would Paul then turn around and contradict the previous verse? Yes, created for good works, BUT they (works) do NOT save us!...

**Counter:** Titus 3:8 - In this verses Paul is talking about being an example.

**Answer:** Read verse 5 again and then read

**Titus 1:7 = We must be "Above Reproach"**

**Counter:** Another passage they like to use for their argument is **Hebrews 6:6** - For this verse, read the entire chapter in its full context (Go

### V2K (Verse To Know)

**"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." - Galatians 2:21**

slow verse by verse).

**Answer:** From what we can understand from this chapter, the person mentioned by Paul was not saved in the first place. We can conclude this from these key words...

**"enlightened"** = Knowledge, not necessarily a change of heart.

**"Tasted"** = but not had the whole thing

**"partakers"** (or "companions" CSB) = It's like when an unbeliever comes to the church and is part of the Christian fellowship but does not know Jesus Christ as his/her Savior.

**Note:** Again, only God knows, but from what we can tell, this person was not truly saved to start with. He "tasted" but did not truly grab a hold of the saving truth of the Gospel.

**Next,** take them to **Galatians 2:21,16**

This is the best verse right here! It does not get more clear then that! Also, make sure to read verse 16 in the same passage. Hebrews 2:16 makes it clear that our righteousness does not come from our good deeds, but from faith in Jesus Christ alone.

If we Read the Bible with the premise that we can lose our salvation, then when we read difficult passages, it can be confusing; but when we step back and look at the big picture of the whole New Testament, and read the clear verses like Galatians 2:21, we can confidently conclude that we are "sealed" with the Holy Spirit and will NOT lose our Salvation. Not only not lose it, but we gain it freely through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behave (**Hebrews 7:20-28!!!**)



## “Saved By Grace... BUT...” (Continued)

**Counter:** **I Corinthians 6:9-10** is another verse used for their argument...

**Answer:** The answer is found in verse 11...

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

### **Justified in the name of WHO?**

In the name of Billy Bob? NO!

Our washing (of our sins), our sanctification and our justification comes through the name of Jesus Christ—Amen!

### **More On Justification: Romans 5**

5:1 = “Justified by faith”

5:9 = “Justified by His blood”

5:10-11 = “Received the reconciliation”

...NOT justified by works!

### **More on Saved By Grace...**

Here are a few more verses for you to continue to deepen your understanding of God’s Grace. And for you to be able to adequately lead others to an understanding of that Saving Grace.

**Romans 11:6** - If by Grace, then NOT by works (Or Grace ceases to be grace)!

**John 1:12** - We become Children of God...

Along with **John 10:25-30**, give an analogy of grabbing a hold of a child’s hands before crossing the street. The child’s safety does NOT depend on his/her strength to hold on, BUT it depends on the grip and strength of the father.

### **The “Law” of the gentiles (non-Jews)**

**Acts 15** - If someone presses on the issue of the “law” and works—Say: “I’m not a Jew, so if you want to try to live by the law, that’s fine with me, but as a gentile this is what Paul instructed us to obey...” (Acts 15:19...)

**Note:** Some Jews also tried to get the gentile to begin to have to obey the law and the Apostles had to clear things up as we read in Acts 15.—Also remember to speak with gentleness and love. I know that the above statement

sounds a little rough, but always remember to season your speech with love and compassion.

### **On Righteousness:**

**John 15:8** - As Christian, we DO WANT to bear MUCH “fruit” (do good deeds). We do this NOT for our own sake, but for the sake of bringing glory to God.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** - NONE Righteous!

**Acts 15:9** - God cleanses our hearts!

**Galatians 2:21** - Righteousness did NOT come through the Law!

**I Corinthians 5:5** - (Start with verse 1)

According to this passage, the man who was in deep sin, is still going to heaven. We can conclude this from verse 5, “...so that his spirit may be saved.”

### **“Salvation By Works”**

If you are tired of disagreeing with someone that believes Salvation is by works, you can tell them “You know what, you’re right. Salvation is by works. Jesus Christ said it Himself. Let’s read **John 6:28-29**...”

“ Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.**" “

*(Bold and Underline Added)*

**Well, we hope that you continue to grow in the knowledge of God’s Word...**

“holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that [you] will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.”  
- Titus 1:9

...Next time some one tells you that “Salvation is by Grace alone... BUT...” - You tell them,

**“No, Salvation is by GRACE ALONE! End of Discussion! NO ‘BUTS’ about it!”**

### **V2K (Verse To Know)**

**“But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.”**- Romans 11:6

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