

# Salvation by Grace Alone — Cheat Sheet

## Their Best Arguments (Know These)

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** — "By grace... through faith... not of works"
- **Romans 3:28** — "Justified by faith without the deeds of the law"
- **Romans 4:4-5** — "To him that worketh not, but believeth... faith is counted for righteousness"
- **Galatians 2:16** — "Not justified by works of the law"
- **Titus 3:5** — "Not by works of righteousness... but according to his mercy"
- **Theological argument:** Adding any human action to grace makes salvation partly earned, diminishing the Atonement

## Core Response: The Bible Teaches BOTH Grace AND Works

### The Key Distinction

Paul opposes **works of the Mosaic Law as a self-justification system** (circumcision, dietary law, Torah observance). James commands **works of obedient faith** (caring for others, living righteously). These are not contradictions — they address different questions.

### Read Ephesians 2:10 (They Always Stop at Verse 9)

*"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

Grace saves us FOR works, not FROM works. Verses 8-10 are one complete thought.

## Scriptures Where Christ Requires Works

- **Matthew 7:21** — "Not every one that saith Lord, Lord... but he that **doeth the will** of my Father"
- **Matthew 7:24-27** — Wise man = hears AND does; foolish man = hears only
- **Matthew 25:31-46** — Sheep and goats separated by **works** (feeding, clothing, visiting)
- **Matthew 19:17** — "If thou wilt enter into life, **keep the commandments**"
- **John 14:15** — "If ye love me, **keep my commandments**"
- **Revelation 20:12-13** — "Judged... **according to their works**"
- **Revelation 22:12** — "Give every man **according as his work shall be**"

## Scriptures Where PAUL Requires Works

- **Romans 2:6-8** — "Render to every man **according to his deeds**... eternal life to them in well doing"
- **Romans 2:13** — "**Doers of the law** shall be justified" (Paul said this!)
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** — List of sins that exclude from kingdom (behavior matters)
- **Galatians 5:19-21** — "They which do such things shall **not inherit** the kingdom"
- **Galatians 6:7-9** — "Whatsoever a man **soweth**, that shall he also **reap**"
- **Philippians 2:12** — "**Work out** your own salvation with **fear and trembling**"
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** — "Receive... **according to... what he hath done**, whether good or bad"

## James Destroys Sola Fide

- **James 2:14** — "Can faith save him?" (Answer: NO, not alone)
- **James 2:17** — "Faith, if it hath not works, is **dead**"
- **James 2:20** — "Faith **without works is dead**"
- **James 2:24** — "By works a man is justified, and **not by faith only**"
- **James 2:26** — "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead"

Luther wanted to remove James from the Bible. That should tell you something.

## Baptism Saves (The New Testament Says So)

- **Mark 16:16** — "Believeth **and is baptized** shall be saved"
- **John 3:5** — "Born of **water and of the Spirit**" to enter the kingdom
- **Acts 2:38** — "Repent, **and be baptized**... for the remission of sins"
- **Acts 22:16** — "Be baptized, and **wash away thy sins**"
- **1 Peter 3:21** — "**Baptism doth also now save us**"

If baptism is a "work," then the New Testament teaches salvation by works.

## One-Line Responses to Objections

Objection	Response
"Ephesians 2:8-9 says not of works"	Read verse 10. We are created "unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Grace saves us FOR works.
"Adding anything to faith nullifies grace"	Do you require repentance? That's something you DO. Romans 10:9-10 requires confession — another action. The question is which responses are biblical, not whether any response exists.
"Romans 4 — Abraham justified by faith, not works"	Paul's point: Abraham was justified before circumcision, so Gentiles don't need circumcision. James uses the SAME Abraham to say he was "justified by works" (James 2:21). Both are right — different questions.
"The thief on the cross — no works, no baptism"	Christ personally declared his salvation before the church was organized and before the baptismal command (Matthew 28:19). Build doctrine on the rule (Acts 2:38), not the exception. Also: baptism for the dead (1 Cor 15:29).

Objection	Response
"Mormons believe they earn salvation"	2 Nephi 2:8 — "No flesh can dwell in the presence of God, save through the merits, mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah." We believe grace is the foundation. We also believe James 2:24.
"2 Nephi 25:23 — saved 'after all we can do' is works-based"	"After" can mean "notwithstanding" — as in, even after our best efforts, we still need grace. Read the surrounding verses. The Book of Mormon is among the most grace-centered scripture ever written.
"This produces anxiety, not assurance"	Philippians 2:12 — "Work out your salvation with FEAR AND TREMBLING." Paul had both confidence and urgency. So should we. Assurance comes from trusting God's grace, not from believing nothing is required of us.

## The LDS Formula (Correctly Understood)

**Not:** Grace + Works = Salvation (this is the strawman)

**Actual:** Grace enables everything. Grace produces faith. Faith produces repentance. Repentance leads to covenants (baptism, etc.). Covenants empower obedience. Obedience is evidence of faith. The whole process is powered by grace from start to finish.

## Early Christian Evidence

- **No early Christian taught sola fide.** It is a 16th-century Protestant innovation.
- **Justin Martyr** (c. 150 AD): "Each man goes to everlasting punishment or salvation according to the value of his actions"
- **The Didache** (c. 100 AD): "Two ways, one of life and one of death" — describes required behaviors
- **Clement of Rome** (c. 96 AD): Affirms justification by faith AND the necessity of good works
- **Shepherd of Hermas** (c. 150 AD): Extensively discusses repentance and obedience as necessary

## Quick Framework for Debate

1. **Agree:** Grace is absolutely central. Without Christ, no one is saved. Period.
2. **Redirect:** "Now read the NEXT verse" — Eph 2:10, James 2:24, Matt 7:21
3. **Challenge:** Ask them to explain James 2:24 ("not by faith only"), Matt 25:31-46 (judgment by works), and Phil 2:12 ("work out your salvation") without contradicting their own position
4. **Reframe:** The question isn't grace OR works. It's what a living, saving faith looks like. We say it looks like obedience, covenants, and discipleship — powered entirely by grace.

## Resources

- [FAIR: Grace and Works](#)
- [Church: Grace](#)
- [FAIR: 2 Nephi 25:23](#)