**Q80. What is saving grace?**

Saving grace is God’s love, forgiveness, and redemption freely and effectively given in Jesus to the elect, who are undeserving of this.

**Q81. What is opposed to God’s grace?**

Opposed to God’s grace are the lies that we are worthy or that we can work hard enough to earn God’s love and forgiveness or that we can seek, will, or choose Jesus without the Holy Spirit giving us new life and saving faith.

1. Read Romans 11:6.
   1. Why does the merit of works nullify grace?
   2. Why is it so difficult for us to fully grasp and accept the concept of salvation by grace alone?
   3. Why is it such good news that we are saved by grace rather than by works?
2. Read Romans 9:15 and 18. It is common for people to feel and believe that since God is gracious He must be gracious to all.
   1. How does that understanding actually nullify grace?
   2. How does God’s grace toward you humble you?
   3. How should that humility help shape how we think about God’s sovereign choice to save some and not others?
3. Read Ephesians 2:8-10.
   1. How does God’s saving grace empower us to good works?
   2. What happens when we forget that we have been saved by grace alone?
4. How does the knowledge of God’s gracious love, forgiveness, and redemption help you in your fight against sin?
   1. Share how this truth of the gospel has produced victory in your sanctification.
   2. Can you give a specific example (i.e. victory over a particular sin)?
5. Looking back at the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14
   1. In what ways have you been tempted/guilty of viewing others’ sins as less worthy of grace than your own?
   2. What is the antidote to this way of thinking? How can we repent of this way of thinking?
6. Read Romans 8:7-8.
   1. How does the truth that we are utterly incapable of pleasing God in ourselves contribute to the good news of the gospel?
   2. How can we combat the lies of our flesh to try and earn grace?