

COLUMN FOR PIS STUDENT NAGALAND INDIA

From the President Dr. Jeon in New York, USA

(#3, March 2025)



Saved by Grace: A Call to Live by Faith



"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV)

I. God's Grace: The Foundation of Our Faith

As we enter March, I want to remind our seminary community—students, faculty, and staff—of one of the greatest truths of the gospel: Salvation is by grace alone, through faith, and not by our own efforts.

In Nagaland, where the gospel has taken root, we see the fruit of faith in strong churches, dedicated ministers, and vibrant Christian communities. However, even in a land blessed with spiritual heritage, we must guard against the tendency to think that our good works, knowledge, or service earn us favor before God. Paul reminds us that salvation is a gift given by God's grace.

Many of us work tirelessly in ministry, academics, and service. But let us always remember: Our labor is not a means to earn salvation but a response to the grace we have already received.

II. Faith: Receiving the Gift of Grace

Grace is God reaching down to save us, and faith is our response to His love. This means: Faith is not about religious performance, but trust in Christ alone. Faith is not an intellectual exercise, but a deep surrender to God's will. Faith does not add to grace; it simply receives it.

As a seminary committed to equipping future leaders, we must continually remind ourselves that academic excellence, biblical knowledge, and good deeds do not save us—only faith in Jesus Christ does.

III. No Room for Boasting

Paul declares, "not by works, so that no one can boast." This means no one—whether a pastor, theologian, student, or missionary—can claim superiority in salvation. We all stand on equal ground before the cross.

1. For students, our success in exams or ministry does not make us more "worthy" before God.
2. For faculty and staff, this reminds us that teaching, mentoring, and administration are acts of worship, not a means to gain favor with God.

This encourages pastors and Christian workers to serve humbly, knowing that God's grace, not our efforts, brings transformation.

IV. Living in the Freedom of Grace

Since salvation is a gift, we are free to serve God not out of fear or duty, but out of love and gratitude. Grace empowers us to live for Christ, love one another, and proclaim the gospel boldly.

V. Reflection Questions for March:

1. Am I relying on God's grace, or am I still trying to "earn" His approval?
2. Do I genuinely find my identity in Christ or my achievements and works?
3. How can I extend grace to others, just as God has shown grace to me?

As PACE International Seminary in Nagaland, let us stand firm in the truth that we are saved by grace through faith for God's glory alone. Let this truth guide the way we study, teach, and serve.

May the grace of God strengthen you this month!

In Christ,

Dr. Rev. Kwangsong Jeon

President, PACE International Seminary, Nagaland, India