

Dear Friend:

If you are reading this then you clicked on the link to Ephesians 2:8 on the first page of the website. I'm glad you did. In that verse the Apostle Paul says "it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." I am happy to have an opportunity to tell you a bit about my life, and my walk with God.

I was born in Michigan. My parents were dedicated Christians. We attended Church multiple times every week, and my parents donated many, many hours of time in service to the Church. The Church was the center of our family life. At age eleven I walked up the aisle of the Church and told a deacon that I wanted to be saved, and just like that I became a Christian, a child of God. My parents set an example for me that influenced my entire life. I credit them with my salvation.

They say that your Christian life doesn't always proceed in a straight line, and that was certainly true for me. During high school my attention drifted away. I vividly recall one evening in my first semester in college, I was alone in my dorm room and I became very emotional and recommitted myself to God. But that didn't last too long and God and Christianity took a backseat again for the next decade or so. Throughout my life I have often let God down, and I still do. But even when I have stepped away from God I am convinced that he never stepped away from me. Thankfully, after a few years of marriage to my wonderful wife, Wanda, we decided to make God a primary part of our lives. That was the best decision we ever made. We found a great church, and God and Bayside Community Church, in Safety Harbor, have been at the center of our lives for the past twenty-five years. God is at the core of who I am. That is a good feeling.

I believe completely in the truth of God and the Bible. For me there is absolutely no doubt that at death there will be life in heaven forever for me and for all followers of God and his son Jesus Christ. I have experienced many instances in when I earnestly believe that God intervened on my behalf. I call them "God things." I believe that all good things, all the blessings that I have ever had, and they are numerous, have been undeserved, and were given to me by God. I am filled with a peace that cannot exist except from God. I have experienced the death of parents, siblings and even a grandchild, but I know that I will one day be reunited with all of them for eternity in heaven. If you are like me, and you are convinced that you don't deserve salvation, it doesn't matter. Anyone, no matter what they have done, no matter what they are now, can immediately have what I have and everything God promises. If you have been looking for peace and eternal life you can have it. All you have to do is ask. If you are waiting to get saved until you turn your life around, and become a better or more deserving person, you simply cannot achieve salvation that way. You will never get there. As the verse says, "this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." You don't have to be a perfect person to be saved and once saved you still won't be a perfect person, but you will be forgiven of all the sins you ever committed, and you will be saved.

One day I will be in heaven, and I sincerely hope to see you there. Thanks for taking a few minutes to read my testimony.

Bill Rambaum