

July 21 to 27

Women's Work

**You are saved by God's grace because of your faith.
This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed.**
(Ephesians 2:8 CEB)

Without reservation

How do I feel when I am given a gift? Not on my birthday or for Christmas, but just like that, without there being an occasion or because I had earned it. Personally, I find that hard to accept. I would ask myself, "Why"? What is the reason behind this? Am I being manipulated? To be given a gift, "Just like that"? That is difficult for me to accept.

I am probably too deeply influenced by our achievement-orientated society. Everything has its price, and nobody just gives something away. Besides, I don't want people to think that I can be manipulated or that I'm corruptible.

And now the text is telling me that I'm saved! But not because I deserve it. No, God wants to give me

eternal life. Just like that, because I believe in him. Because Christ died for my sins and rose again. Can I accept this gift? Or am I so set in my worldly view, that even in this regard I am also suspicious?

Suspicion is often justifiable. In this case, however, we need to disregard it totally. God has prepared good things for us – he doesn't want to manipulate us. We can come to him as we are, and accept his gift without any reservation. For that is the only way to be saved.

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I GIVE THANKS

- for the gift of grace. That I am saved, without having to earn it.
- for friends, who give of their time to listen to me, and to share both joys and sorrows with me
- for churches where the grace of God is visible, because of the gracious manner in which the members relate to each other

I PRAY

- for Women's Work, and for all who carry the responsibility to be engaged in the interests of women
- for local women's groups in which one feels this sense of communion and where women support each other
- for there to be the kind of fellowship in our churches where the grace of God is visible and can be experienced

Women's Work

Women's Work wants to encourage women to shape their lives out of the fullness of God. To find their place in church and society, taking responsibility and giving them space to grow in their faith.

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