



Scripture Nugget - Salvation is a free gift from God

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

When Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden and fell from grace, pulling down with them the whole human race, God was quick to pronounce His remedy for their situation, saying to the serpent which personified Satan: *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel."* (Genesis 3:15). Through this declaration, God announced the coming of the Saviour, the Messiah, and made Jesus and Mary the arch rivals of Satan. Thus, our Blessed Mother Mary's unique role in salvation history is enshrined in Scripture even before she was born.

All have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Outside of God's grace, no one is able to save oneself by one's own human power alone. *No man can ransom even a brother, or pay to God his own ransom (Psalm 49:8).* We are saved by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament days God allowed the offering of animal sacrifices. Though these can never take away a single sin, they served to remind people of their sins and as a precursor for the coming perfect Sacrifice of the One Who is sinless and in perfect obedience to God. Jesus tells us: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life."* (John 3:16).

In Christ we are more than conquerors (cf. Romans 8:37). Victory is ours for the taking because Christ has won for us victory over sin and eternal condemnation. Through His life, death and resurrection, Christ has merited for us all the graces needed for overcoming all temptation, all sinful bondages, complete purification, and sanctification of our souls, making them fit for a glorious eternal life with God. Like a true father, God's greatest desire is our salvation. His plan for each of us (cf. Jeremiah 29:11) is not only to provide for us materially but more importantly, to help everyone attain the glorious, eternal inheritance He has prepared for all His children. *God wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, the price of my redemption is Your Blood shed on Calvary. I stand in awe of the truth of how much I am loved by God! Help me treasure and live this truth and assimilate it into my poor heart to end all restlessness. *My soul rests in God alone, from Whom comes my salvation (Psalm 62:2).* Your love is the most wondrous thing that will eventually overcome all evil. Teach me to live in Your love for this is the key to true joy (cf. John 15:10-11). May I treasure what You have done for me so that I will always walk on the true path to my glorious eternal inheritance. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.