

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Here's something to think about today as you are daydreaming in the middle of the day, thinking of the upcoming weekend. Imagine that you won the Lotto, and you won, not a measly million dollars, but 150 million dollars (\$150,000,000.00). You would look at your bank account and there it is, \$150,000,000.00. Wouldn't you keep looking and looking at your account on your phone, your computer, your tablet, print it out and hang it everywhere to see it, because you just can't believe that you now have \$150,000,000.00 in your bank account to spend anyway you want to. You could buy houses for all your friends and family and it would scarcely put a dent in that \$150,000,000.00

So what do you do now that you have all that money? That's right you would go get a job trying to earn that \$150,000,000.00.

"Wait, wait, wait a minute Steve. I wouldn't get a job to earn something I already have won, that would be crazy stupid, plus even if I did I could never in a million years earn that much money, not on my salary."

You are 100% right, yet how many Christians do just that? How many will do things, trying to earn God's favor, or when they fall into sin they will try to do good things to be accepted by God? Do you realize that when we try to earn God's favor, or earn our salvation, it's like slapping God in the face, because you are saying in a sense, *"God, You gave me salvation through Your Son Jesus Who suffered and died for me on the cross, but I don't think it was enough, because I need to _____"*

You need to what, put an extra 20 bucks in the offering plate because the horrendous death that Jesus went through on the cross wasn't enough, and you think 20 bucks would cover it better or fill in that missing bit of agony that Jesus endured?

Or maybe you think you have to suffer by getting up early on Sunday morning instead of sleeping in to go to church, and that it's so much better than the suffering Jesus went through on the cross?

Just as you thought my example of working to earn that \$150,000,000.00 was ridiculous, how much more ridiculous is it to try and earn God's favor or salvation. The bible tells us what to do when we mess up, and that is to repent and pray, but not to earn God's favor or salvation, because you already have it, because ***it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

God is your Father if you are a believer, so stop trying to earn what He has already given you, and just enjoy salvation through Jesus Christ, which is far better than trying to be happy with a measly \$150,000,000.00 when your Father owns the earth and all of the vastness of the heavens.

† **Galatians 4:8-10 (NLT2)** *Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years.*