



“The Perfect Balance”

Sun Oct 11, 2026

I. ***Ephesians 2:4-10***

A. The Two Ditches (We live in a world that loves extremes)

1. ***The Ditch of Legalism***

- The Belief if we pray long enough, work hard enough, and keep the rules, we might be able to earn God’s approval.
- This mindset creates a constant sense of inadequacy—‘just an old sinner saved by grace’—and when life does not unfold as we hope, it leads us to ask, ‘What did I do wrong?’

2. ***The Ditch of Cheap Grace***

- The idea because God forgives us, it doesn’t matter what we do or how we live.
- This mindset fosters irresponsibility and avoids accountability; instead of taking necessary action, a person may simply blame God.

3. Both ditches miss the heart of God. Today, let’s look at them both (not as enemies), but in perfect balance and harmony from God’s Word.

B. ***Ephesians 2:8***

1. By Grace you are saved through faith
2. Grace from God...Faith from your heart
 - God gives to us freely...
 - Faith Receives what has been given

II. The Balance of Truth

A. ***Grace is the Foundation***

1. You cannot work your way into heaven. If salvation could be earned by human effort, there would have been no need for Jesus to die on the cross. Grace is God reaching down to us when we were unable to reach up to Him!
2. When we try to earn God’s favor through performance (through doing), we turn relationship into a transaction. We trade peace for anxiety, and rest for striving.

B. ***Works are the Evidence***

1. ***James 2 :17-18***

- We are not saved *BY* good works; we are saved *FOR* good works.
- Bearing fruit is the clearest evidence of grace at work in our lives. Jesus said, ‘I am the vine; you are the branches.’ If someone claims to have received God’s grace but shows no love, mercy, or transformation, they should examine what they are connected to.

2. ***Philippians 2:12-13***

- Notice the parallel: ***We Work Out What God Works In!***
- We don’t work *to get* saved; we work because *we are* saved. This is called “Partnering / Covenant With God”