

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

11/03/12 - The Gift We Must Share

RG AUDIO 110312

Ephesians 2:1-10

When someone offers me a gift, I am often inclined to say, "That's nice. How much do I owe you?" I know that is the wrong response, but for a variety of reasons, my natural inclination is to want to pay them back even though the gift was not requested and repayment is not expected. The appropriate response to a gift is "Thank you."

The "pay our own way" mind-set gets in the way when it comes to receiving the gift of eternal life. As soon as we receive God's gift of salvation we feel this intense obligation to try to pay God back or work off this gift of grace. We must remember that our salvation is not a result of our own effort, ability, or service.

Even though no action or work we do can help us obtain salvation, God's intention is that our salvation will result in action. We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and others as we build up the body of Christ. Out of gratitude for God's gift, we seek to help and serve others with kindness, gentleness, and love.