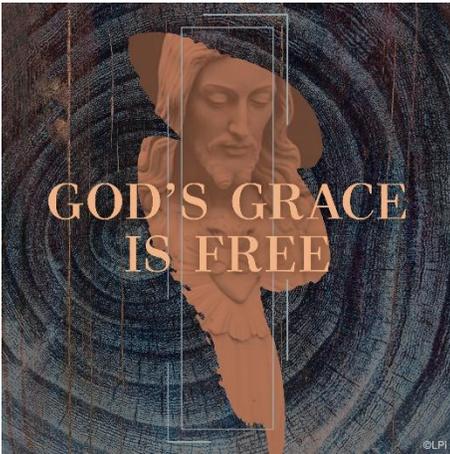


Good Morals Are Not Enough — We Need Christ and His Grace



My Dear Friends,

The Catholic faith teaches that living a moral life is important, but it also teaches something essential and often forgotten: good morals alone do not save us. Salvation is not earned by human effort; it is a gift of God's grace, won for us by Jesus Christ through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

In the Gospels, Jesus confronts the Pharisees not because they lacked morality, but because they relied on their own righteousness rather than humbly receiving God's mercy. Their obedience to the law, though good, became a substitute for

faith, conversion, and love.

The Church proclaims clearly: "By grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

This grace is not an abstract idea. It is poured into our souls through the Sacraments—especially Baptism, which frees us from sin and makes us children of God, and the Eucharist, in which Christ gives us His very Body and Blood to sustain us in holiness. Apart from Christ and the life of grace He offers, even the best moral efforts remain incomplete.

Good works, charity, and obedience to God's commandments are not the cause of our salvation, but its fruit. As the Catechism reminds us, "The merit of man before God... is due to God's gracious initiative" (CCC 2008). Jesus Himself tells us: "Apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

The true danger for believers is not always grave sin, but quiet self-reliance—trusting our good behavior, our religious routines, or our reputation rather than surrendering our lives daily to Christ and His Church.

Holiness is not about being "good enough." It is about living in communion with Christ, remaining in a state of grace, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us from within.

Let us examine our hearts: Do we trust in ourselves—or in Jesus Christ? Do we rely on our efforts—or on His mercy?

May we never replace Christ with morality but instead allow His grace—received in faith and the Sacraments—to bear fruit in good works for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Blessings,

Fr. Vilaire