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# Completely Saved by Grace not Works

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It is not uncommon for churches to wrongly teach that you need to perform a membership ritual in order to be counted

among God's people. They teach that it is a custom or tradition required by God.

Yet, the very essence of God's grace is that he saves you the moment you believe, not as a result of any work of your own or priestly tradition ([Eph 2:8-9](#)).

At one time circumcision functioned as the token of entry into God's people. But Paul says that Christ has already circumcised believers without hands ([Col 2:11](#)).

Likewise people are confused about the need for water baptism in order to be saved.

Yet, Paul makes it clear that our baptism as well as our resurrection is through the faith of the operation of God ([Col 2:12](#)). We are baptized into Christ's death not a pool of water in order to be saved ([Rom 6:1-3](#)).

Water baptism is not the only Jewish

ordinance carried over into church teaching today. Others include tithing, special prayers, anointings, and the commandment-keeping.

Speaking of commandment-keeping it is a commonly taught that although Christ did so much at the cross we now need to submit to a few ordinances of the law in order to prove that we are saved.

Sadly, many are vainly deceived that their church-going, tithing, or good behavior keeps them in the body of Christ.

About this Paul strongly writes that Christ blotted out the 'handwriting of ordinances that was against us'.

*"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:"* ([Col 2:16](#))

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