

**GUS NICHOLS**

**SALVATION IS ENTIRELY BY GRACE**

God has no other power that he uses in reaching men other than the gospel. God has miraculous, creative power "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1:1.) But he does not use that miraculous power in converting men. God has proposed to convert us through the persuasive power of the gospel. Paul said it is the power of God unto salvation. (Rom. 1:16.) God has other power but he doesn't use it in saving men. He deals with us as free moral agents, as creatures of responsibility and accountability and hence he appeals to us to be saved and he has stipulated that salvation must be upon certain conditions and these conditions are not for God's benefit. They are not meritorious. They do not earn salvation to any degree. **It is entirely of grace in the sense that we don't pay for it.** It is conditional on our part. And it is not all grace in the sense that it includes our obedience; but **our obedience is itself also of grace in the sense that the gospel produces the obedience.** God through his revelation has brought us to salvation, the gospel has brought us there, and hence **faith is a part of grace in that sense; and repentance, confession, and baptism are all parts of grace—** God's divine means that are graciously bestowed to bring us to Christ. **Salvation is actually as much then a gift of God as if it had been unconditional. The reason that it is conditional is that the conditions are for our benefit, not to pay God for salvation. They fit us for heaven,** and if it were not conditional on our part and God were to save us unconditionally, he would simply be pardoning and forgiving spiritual criminals and turning them loose on the society of heaven eventually to spoil heaven. (LECTURES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT, pp. 26 & 27)