

**Topic:** ABC of Salvation  
**Text:** **Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)**  
**Theme:** “Salvation is based on God’s mercy and not on man’s goodness”

## Introduction

- This is a straight forward preaching on the basics of salvation.
- In addition to the John 3:16 discourse on God's greatest love for the world, this sermon is a good follow-up on how to get saved.
- Many people today still believe that “doing good work” (like going to church regularly, or being a loving parent, or giving half of your income to charity, or being the employee of the year) is good enough to win God's favour, and enter heaven.
- They need to realise that it's based on the GOOD work of Jesus, NOT on our work (regardless how excellent or heroic they maybe) that meets the Father's standard for one's salvation.

## I. SALVATION IS BY GRACE

*V8a: “For by grace...”*

### A. *Grace means undeserved favour.*

1. Men do not deserve to be saved, all are doomed to hell. (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Titus 2:11)
2. It is only through God's goodness and mercy that salvation has been provided.

### B. *Salvation is the gift from God.*

*V8d “... it is the gift of God”*

1. Gift is always FREE, there is no need to buy it, nor earn it, nor work for it, nor ask for it.
2. Some people seek for a harder way to achieve it; all it needs is someone to RECEIVE it.
3. It was Jesus who bore our sins (Isaiah 53:5). He went to the Cross to pay for the penalty of our sins. It is His gift to us.

## II. SALVATION IS THROUGH FAITH

*V8b "... are ye saved through faith"*

### A. *Pleasing God is through faith. (Hebrews 11:6)*

1. God initiated the first action—through His mercy He has given us the gift of salvation.
2. Now, the next action rests on us—whether to accept God's offer by faith.

### B. *Faith comes by hearing the Word. (Romans 10:17)*

- If we hear and listen to what God is saying in His Word, then our faith will be established and will grow later.

### C. *Faith in the Son of God, not in any religion or tradition (1 John 5:11-12)*

1. There are many people who will die for their religions and traditions no matter what. We cannot blame them for having that attitude as they grew-up with it.
2. But if we set aside our background and re-focus our faith in Jesus, we will find out that salvation is at hand.

## III. SALVATION IS NOT BY WORKS OF MAN

*V9 "...Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

### A. *Not of yourselves*

*V8c "...and that not of yourselves"*

1. No one is good enough to provide salvation for himself.
2. No matter how "good" we are, God's standard for salvation is unattainable by human standard.

**B. Not of works**

*V9a "... Not of works"*

1. You can be a top philanthropist or a national hero, but your work will not be able to match the work that Jesus did at the Cross.
2. If we can be saved through our good works, then rich and noble people will always have the best chance to get saved.

**C. Or it may result to boasting**

*V9b "... lest any man should boast."*

- If we get to heaven based on our good works, we can tell Jesus with pride: "Jesus, I did not need your effort to save me from my sins. I did it all by myself."