

CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROOKFIELD, IL

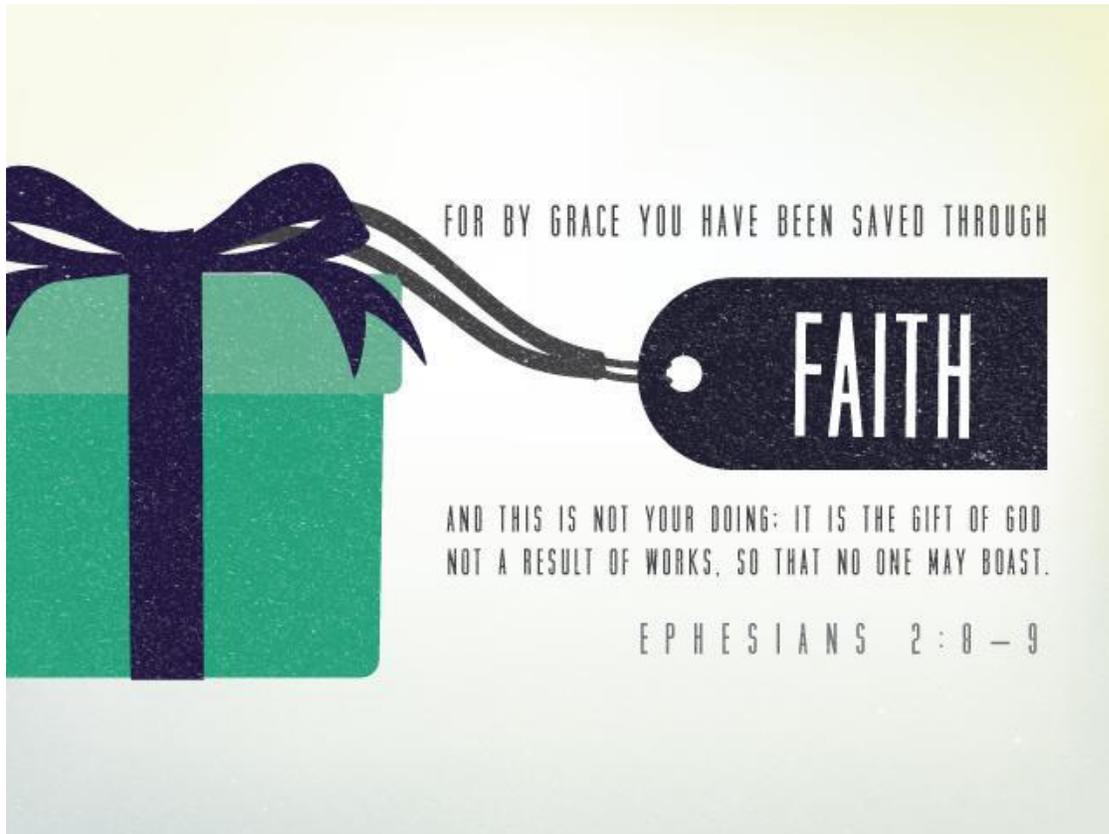
# God's Love Offers a Gift

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## Salvation

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5/3/2015



# God's Love Offers a Gift

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May 3, 2015

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

## Sermon Thesis:

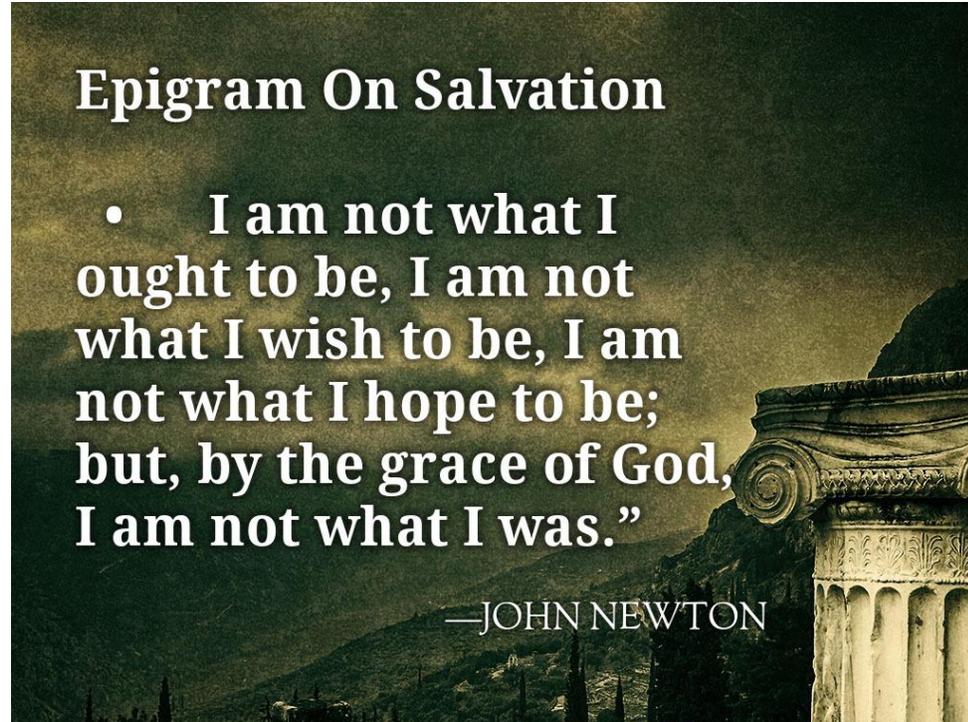
The Love of God has extended to men the gift of salvation.

## Objectives:

- I. Salvation is not based on human achievement
- II. Salvation is grounded in God's Love for His people

## Introduction:

God's Righteousness At Christ Expense has made available a precious gift to mankind. It is required that men do something to accept His wonderful offer. If accepted we will be changed forever by the Love that saves; encourages and gives hope.



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## Sermon Outline:

### I. Salvation is not based on human achievement

A. The works of men do not merit salvation.

Romans 3:28 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

B. Things are required of men by God but salvation is not earned by men.

C. It is God's GRACE that stands ready to purify the hearts of men who believe and obey Him.

Acts 15:7–11 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

D. Faith that obeys God's GRACE brings salvation.

E. Faith proceeds obedience, it places faith in the GRACE of God.

Romans 4:1–3 (NIV)

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup> If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup> What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

F. Abraham's faith was found in the GRACE of God.

G. We like Abraham trust and obey God because of what He has done for us in bringing salvation. A gift that keeps on giving.

Romans 5:1–2 (NIV)

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Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

- H. The acts of obedient faith keep us in God's GRACE so that we have hope of salvation. Our acts of obedience are not the work of man but the work of God.
  - 1. Baptism is just a wet exercise without the power of God.
  - 2. Repentance is empty and meaning without God's power.
  - 3. Confession is only sound without God being in it according to His GRACE.
- I. God's achievement, which is GRACE saves us not human achievement.

Galatians 2:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

- J. We do not come to God proclaim what we did for Him. We come to God proclaiming what He did for us.
- K. If our works could save us then the cross was unnecessary.

Galatians 2:21 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

- L. Righteousness is in GRACE because God does it. Human Righteousness For Christ Expense does not save.
- M. The Lord's purposes and acts have called us to be Holy. Men have not decided to be Holy on their own.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

- N. *Our Lord and Creator have loved us from the beginning of time.*

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## II. Salvation is grounded in God's Love for His people

A. Even when we were opposed to Him he loved us.

Ephesians 2:4–5 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

B. Our salvation is possibly because of His great love for us.

C. The children of Israel were taught and reminded of God's great love.

Deuteronomy 7:1–8 (NIV)

When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—<sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. <sup>3</sup> Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, <sup>4</sup> for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. <sup>5</sup> This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. <sup>6</sup> For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. <sup>8</sup> But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

D. The gift of salvation can overcome the world.

E. As many who believe can be saved and not condemned.

John 3:16–17 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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- F. Love has offered us an awesome gift.
- G. Jesus did not become Savior by believing only. Jesus yielded to God's Righteousness. God's great love is demonstrated to us.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- H. We will not be saved by believing only. Our love must be demonstrated as well.
- I. We should be encouraged by what He has done. Encouraged to demonstrate our accepting of His wonderful gift of salvation.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

- J. The Father has asked of Jesus and now we have GRACE. What does He ask of us?

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## Conclusion:

God's Love Offers a Gift...

1 John 4:9–19 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.

How can we demonstrate this love?

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## Invitation:

**Romans 10:17 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

**Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**Luke 13:3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

**Acts 17:30 (NIV)**

<sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

**Acts 26:20 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

**Romans 10:9–10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

**1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

**Matthew 10:32–33 (NIV)**

<sup>32</sup> “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

<sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

**Acts 2:38 (NIV)**

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 6:3–4 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**1 Peter 3:21 (NIV)**

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<sup>21</sup> and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**Revelation 2:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

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