



## Sermon Notes

### Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

<sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

February 8, 2026

**(Answer key located on the last page)**

## 1. The GIFT: God's Generous Grace

**What does "grace" mean?**

Grace means God gives you something \_\_\_\_\_ you don't deserve and could never \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul calls salvation a "\_\_\_\_\_."

**Key Truth:** This gift cost God \_\_\_\_\_, but it costs you \_\_\_\_\_.

*How Does This Point to Christ?*

Without \_\_\_\_\_, there is no gift to receive. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the \_\_\_\_\_ we deserved so we could receive the \_\_\_\_\_ we don't deserve.

**Action Step:** This week, text or call ONE person. Say: "Can I share something that changed my life?" Then tell them Jesus offers \_\_\_\_\_ as a free gift.

## 2. Grace Overrules Our Efforts

**Verse 9:** "not a result of works, so that no one may \_\_\_\_\_."

*How Does This Point to Christ?*

Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through \_\_\_\_\_" (John 14:6).

**Action Step:** Think of someone far from God. Reach out and say: "I know you might think you need to get your life \_\_\_\_\_ before coming back to God, but that's not how it works. Jesus does the \_\_\_\_\_. You just bring the mess."

Why Good Works Matter

**You don't work TO BE saved. You work BECAUSE you've been \_\_\_\_\_.**

### **The Difference:**

- Religion says: "Do good works so God will \_\_\_\_\_ you."
- The Gospel says: "God has \_\_\_\_\_ you in Christ; now do good works out of \_\_\_\_\_."

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

What stood out to you most in today's message?

How have you been trying to "earn" God's favor instead of simply receiving His gift?

### **COMMITMENT**

Based on today's sermon, what is one specific thing you commit to do this week?

### **Next Steps**

**If you've never received God's gift of salvation:**

Pray today: "Jesus, I'm a sinner. I can't save myself. I believe You died for me and rose again. I receive Your gift of salvation right now. Amen."

**If you're already a follower of Jesus:**

Share this truth with ONE person before next Sunday:  
"Salvation is God's free gift through Jesus. You can't earn it, but you can receive it by faith."

Reach out to someone far from God and remind them that grace goes all the way—even to where they are right now.

## Answer Key

### 1. The GIFT: God's Generous Grace

Good | earn | gift | everything |  
Nothing | Christ |punishment |  
Forgiveness | forgiveness

### 2. Grace Overrules Our Efforts

Boast | way | Me |together |  
Cleaning | SAVED | accept |  
accepted | gratitude

### The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

### The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
(Romans 3:23)

### The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

### The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Romans 6:23a )

### Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

**Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"**

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. 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. (Romans 10:9–10)

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