

**Lesson Title:**

**Salvation, Good Works, and Dead Works — God's Order for the Christian Life**

**Class Level:**

LOGIC Foundational Class(LFC)

**Duration:**

60 minutes

## **Introduction**

One of the greatest sources of confusion in Christianity is the relationship between faith and works.

- Some think *works* save them.
- Others think *works* don't matter at all once you're saved.
- Still others perform religious duties with no real connection to Christ.

The Bible distinguishes between Salvation, Good Works, and Dead Works — and places them in a divine order:

We are saved by grace, unto good works, and away from dead works.

Today, we will examine:

1. What salvation truly is.
2. What good works are and why they matter.
3. What dead works are and why they are dangerous.

---

## **1. Salvation – God's Free Gift**

**Key Text:** Ephesians 2:8–9 –

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

### **A. The Nature of Salvation**

- Salvation = Deliverance from the guilt, power, and penalty of sin through the finished work of Jesus Christ.
- It is a gift — not earned, not deserved (Romans 6:23).
- It comes by grace (God's unearned favor), through faith (trusting in Jesus alone).

#### B. Why Works Can't Save Us

- Isaiah 64:6 – Our righteousness is like filthy rags compared to God's holiness.
- Galatians 2:16 – No one is justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.
- If we could earn it, the cross would be unnecessary (Galatians 2:21).

#### C. How We Receive Salvation

- Repentance – Turning away from sin and self-effort.
- Faith – Placing total trust in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 10:9–10).

#### Illustration:

A drowning man can't save himself by swimming harder; he needs someone to rescue him. Likewise, we can't save ourselves by trying harder; Jesus rescues us completely.

## 2. Good Works – The Evidence of Salvation

Key Text: Ephesians 2:10 –

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

#### A. What Good Works Are

- Spirit-inspired actions that align with God's will.
- They are the fruit of salvation — the evidence that we belong to Christ (Matthew 7:17–18).
- They come naturally from a transformed heart (John 15:5).

#### B. Why Good Works Matter

1. They glorify God (Matthew 5:16).
2. They demonstrate genuine faith (James 2:14–18).

3. They bless others (Hebrews 13:16).
4. They earn eternal rewards (1 Corinthians 3:12–14).

### C. Examples of Good Works

- Helping the poor (Matthew 25:35–36).
- Forgiving others (Ephesians 4:32).
- Sharing the gospel (Mark 16:15).
- Living in holiness (1 Peter 1:15–16).

### Illustration:

An apple tree doesn't produce apples to become an apple tree — it produces apples because it *is* an apple tree. Likewise, good works are the natural fruit of a born-again life.

---

## 3. Dead Works – Actions Without Spiritual Life

Key Text: Hebrews 6:1 –

*“...not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.”*

### A. What Are Dead Works?

- Acts done apart from faith in Christ.
- They can be:
  1. Sinful acts done in rebellion.
  2. Religious acts done to earn salvation.

### B. Characteristics of Dead Works

1. Self-centered motive – Done for pride, human praise, or fear.
2. No life from the Spirit – Done in human effort, not God's power.
3. No eternal value – Cannot produce salvation or true holiness.

### C. Examples of Dead Works

- Legalistic rituals without heart change (Matthew 15:8–9).
- Giving to be seen by others (Matthew 6:1–4).
- Serving in ministry for recognition, not love for God.

- Trying to keep the law for salvation (Galatians 3:10–11).

**Illustration:**

Fake fruit in a bowl looks real from afar, but has no life, no sweetness, and no nourishment.  
Dead works may look spiritual but carry no eternal life.

---

#### **4. God's Order**

The Bible gives us the divine sequence:

1. Salvation – The root (gift of grace).
2. Good Works – The fruit (evidence of salvation).
3. Dead Works – The fake fruit (reject and repent from these).

If you reverse the order, you fall into error:

- Works → Salvation = Legalism.
- Salvation → No Works = Dead faith.
- Works without Faith = Empty religion.