



The heart of the foundation of God's church is the **truth**: the doctrine of the Word of God – specifically the truths of **salvation**.

Salvation is the overarching theme of verses 4-7.

Paul traces it all back to the kindness, love, and mercy of **God**.

If you are saved, it is by the **kindness** of God.

Chrestotes – kindness or **goodness**; literally a goodness of **heart**
Ephesians 2:7 – the benevolent nature of God. God is **inherently** good.

Luke 6:35

Romans 2:4

God is good and God is kind in order that men may have time to **repent**.

If you are saved, it is by the **love** of God.

Philanthropia – compassion, an eagerness to deliver from pain or distress because of a **strong affection**

Luke 15

The heart of God is not **reluctant** to receive the sinner. He embraces him because in His nature is not only kindness, but that **compassionate**, strong affection for man.

“Appeared” – this is a reference to the **incarnation** of Jesus Christ. The full, visible, personal manifestation of the kindness and love of God came in the **person** of Jesus Christ.

Salvation is an objective **historical** act of the Spirit of God connecting us by **faith** to the historical, incarnate **appearing** of Jesus so that the life He now has as the crucified and risen Savior has become our life because we are in Him.

If you are saved, it is by the **mercy** of God.

God would have been **just** to pass us by and to save no one.

Ephesians 2:4-5

Philippians 3

We **deserve** wrath, we **receive** salvation. God is kind and God has compassionate love which is **expressed** in mercy toward miserable sinners.

That is the very **nature** of God.

The next time you wonder about His kindness, look at your **salvation**.

The next time you wonder about His love, look at the **cross**.
The next time you wonder about His mercy, look at your continued saved **life**.