

Ephesians 2:8-10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

“Because of God’s unearned favor you have been given the gift of eternal life. It is a gift, not a work therefore there’s nothing to become prideful over. God is using Jesus Christ to create a grand work of art. We are that grand work of art! God has good work and purpose for each and everyone of us (He planned it before creation itself came about), and it is only accomplished through our association with Jesus Christ.”

- I. For - conjunction tying in previous thought.
 - a. 7 so that in the ages to come He might show (*endeiknymi*) the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
 - i. 1 Timothy 1:16 (NASB95) Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate (*endeiknymi*) His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.
- II. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
 - a. For by grace you have been saved through faith:
 - i. Grace - charis (khä'-res) - unmerited favor
 - ii. Faith - pistis (pe'-stes) belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom
 - iii. Gift - is the voluntary transfer of property from one person (the donor or grantor) to another (the donee or grantee) without full valuable consideration. In order for a gift to be **legally** effective, three requirements must be met:
 1. Intention of donor to give the gift to the donee (donative intent):
 - a. John 3:16-17 (NASB95) 16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
 2. Delivery of gift to donee.
 - a. 1 John 4:10 (NASB95) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

b. **John 3:16-17 (NASB95)** 17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

3. Acceptance of gift by donee.

a. **John 9:35-38 (NASB95)** 35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” 38 And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.

b. **This is what God’s grace for salvation is. It is receiving something undeserved and unearned simply by placing your trust in His Son.**

c. In verse 8 we are told that we are saved by “*grace through faith.*” A consistent struggle for man always has been what is my role in salvation? What part of this incredible thing that He is offering me do I do something so that I might warrant it? Paul tells us in verse 9.

d. **9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

i. **This is a supremely important statement by Paul. He is letting us know that salvation is not affiliated with any kind of work. As a matter of fact it can’t be. If it were a work it couldn’t be a gift!**

1. **Works** - ergon (e'r-gon) - any product whatever, any thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind, demanded by and agreeing with the law

a. **Romans 11:6 (NASB)** But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

b. **Romans 3:28 (NASB)** For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

c. **Titus 3:4-5 (NASB)** 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit

2. Let’s dig a little deeper on this idea of faith not being a work.

3. What is faith again? **Faith is belief in Jesus Christ’s substitutionary death for me.**

4. What are faith or belief said another way? **Trust. *I believe or trust that Jesus Christ’s death paid my debt to allow me entry into heaven.***

5. **Let’s think about this idea of trust then for a moment.** When you are deciding whether or not you are going to trust someone what do we normally say about them when they have gained your trust? We normally say they proved themselves to me and “earned” my trust.

6. Who did the work in this scenario? The person earning your trust.

7. **Your trust was always yours you always had it.** You didn't do a work in order to have the trust you had so that you might give it away, you already possessed it, you were born with it.
 - a. **Romans 12:3 (NASB95)** For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
 8. **Isn't this an amazing thought???** The Creator of the entire universe decided He would earn the most precious commodity that you possess... your trust!
 9. The only work done by anyone, was Jesus Christ. We simply acknowledge that He's done everything required to warrant earning my trust.
- e. **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**
- i. **Workmanship** - poiema (poi'-a-mä) - our word for poem.
 1. **Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
 - ii. Verse 10, when read in the context of verses 8 and 9 helps paint a picture for us. We see in these prior two verses that that **our salvation will not be attributed to works.**
 - iii. We see in verse 10 though, that after salvation we do have works. Not just works, but good works.
 - iv. In other words **it is only after we become a believer** do we have the ability to even perform works that are acceptable to Him. That's because it's only works that are a result of our association with His Son does He accept them.
 - v. Here's an important question then: "What is good and who defines it?"
 1. **Good** - agathos (ä-gä-tho's) - what is upright, honorable, and acceptable to God.
 2. We have an example in scripture of a time when a man came up to Jesus and used "good" and Jesus helped define it for him:
 - a. **Mark 10:17-18 (NASB95)** 17 As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."
 3. You and I don't get to define what is good.
 4. **"If it's a good thing do it"** mentality is wrong!

- a. **Luke 10:38-42 (NASB95)** 38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

5. **Good** is something that is defined by God. That has been done here in this passage by the way: **which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**
 6. **Beforehand** - from eternity past, God already had in mind what He has the works He has for you.
 7. Our minds hear this and it's hard to not jump to the next logical question... ***"How do I know what those works are and then how do I do them?"***
 8. Great question! David shows us the answer in Psalm 139:
 - a. **Psalms 139:23-24 (NASB95)** 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.
- vi. **10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**
- vii. "Father, I know you have good works for me that you desire to do through me. Works that you prepared from eternity past just for me. I pray that you would show me the things in my heart and mind that you need to refine in order for me to allow you to perform these works through me. I pray that you might do this to such a degree that the day I stand before you, you are pleased with me and I didn't miss one of those good works you had."