

God's Workmanship Ephesians 2:8-10

Introduction

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not 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, that we should walk in them.

1. Salvation is a gift from God.

⁸ For by **grace** you have been saved through faith.

"For" connects what follows to what went before. Sums it up.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, 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 coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

By grace—unmerited favor, goodness, kindness; related to word for gift; a gift is not earned, else it's not a gift

If you're going to buy a gift for someone, you have to be able to afford it. Who could possibly afford this gift but God?

Rescue from sin and death (sinlessness, immortality), eternal life, restoration to a close relationship to the holy God, residence in the heavenly city, the new heaven, the new earth

Through faith—reliance; the hand that receives the gift; you have to believe God is actually this good to offer you this gift and so you reach out and take it for yourself from Him.

A reversal of the fall in the garden of Eden. Satan cast doubt on God's Word and denied it. Called God a liar.

Faith counts God's Word as true. Considers God to be truthful and reliable.

Satan accused God of withholding from Adam and Eve what would make them greater and happier. Accusing God of being evil in His motives.

Faith relies on God as being good—so good that He freely gives the priceless gift of eternal life.

2. Salvation is not earned by our own works.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

This—the whole gift of salvation
Not your own doing—if you could save
yourself, you would not need the Savior.

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

Not “out of” works.

Nobody who makes it to heaven can brag he
earned his way there by his own works.
Nobody who was spiritually dead, dominated,
driven, and doomed (vv. 1-3) can free
himself.

Insurmountable sin debt—if at some point I
can start living sin-free till I die, what about
all my earlier sins?

When I count not just sinful deeds, but sinful
words, thoughts, and desires, how can I
measure how sinful I really am? And what
about all the good things I failed to do when I
should have?

On what basis do I expect God to pass over all these sins because of some good works I've done?

It would be like a murderer expecting to be set free just because he wasn't a thief too.

3. Salvation displays God's work in and through us.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

For—explanation of what he's said so far

Gospel—not what we must do, but what God has done. His work.

Workmanship—masterpiece

Created—by the God who spoke everything into existence out of nothing can make spiritually dead alive

In Christ (Messiah) **Jesus**—Yahweh saves

For good works—unto good (moral) works
Morality will not gain salvation for me, but salvation will produce morality in me.

Summary of the moral law:
Love God. Love others.

How? By the power of the indwelling Spirit
Ephesians 1:13, 19

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

which God prepared beforehand,

God planned long ago not just saving you, but giving you a purpose to fulfill as His child—He has work for you to do. So do it! He prepared it for you to do beforehand.

You have a reason to get up in the morning.
You are on mission for God.
He has appointed you.
And He has assigned work for you to do.

that we should walk in them.

Purpose

Literally, “walk about” in them

Our regular, walk-about living characterized by good deeds

This is why we are alive in Christ, restored to fellowship with God.

Illus: like the designer and manufacturer of an amazing sports car

It's designed not just to look cool, but to travel fast. It was not made just to sit in a museum doing nothing.

Same with a tractor or a computer—it is created for a purpose

Recovery of the Creation mandate
Created in God's image in order to fill the earth and manage it—to work for the good of God's entire creation.

Conclusion

1. Salvation is a gift from God.
2. Salvation is not earned by our own works.
3. Salvation displays God's work in and through us.