Ephesians 2:8-10
Ephesians 2:8 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

1. “Grace” – charitî (from charis) -
2. “through faith” – dia pisteôs – the preposition “through” (dia) shows faith is the channel through which salvation comes
   a. Faith is not seen here as a work or an accomplishment by the individual
   b. Faith is not a quality, a virtue. It is not something man produces.
   c. Faith is a trustful response
      i. This trust is brought to our understanding by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit illuminates us, empowers us and we respond with faith or trust.
         1. Ephesians 1:13 –
         2. Romans 10:17 – Faith comes from hearing the message
      ii. We can respond with rejection, doubt, hard heartedness.
         1. Romans 1:18-23 –
         2. Hebrews 3:15 (which is from Psalm 95:8 which is referring to Exodus) – Do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."
3. Ephesians 4:18 – “being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.”

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**Ephesians 4:18**

Word of God (Truth; Reality) → Hardness of Heart → Ignorance (Ep. 4:18; Rom 1:21) → Darkened Understanding (Ep. 4:18; "a debased mind" of Rom. 1:28)
Ephesians 2:9 – “not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

1. “works” – ergon (from erga) – is not specifically referring to the Law of Moses since Paul is addressing Gentiles here. It refers to any kind of human effort.
2. The Bible student must decide if “faith” or “believing” in reality is:
   a. a “work” (which it is not), or
   b. if it is “a gift of God” given to some (the chosen who are saved) but NOT given to others (who perish)... (this is Calvinism)
   c. a person’s response to the Truth that is revealed to them (and, every man) by the Holy Spirit

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.”

1. The ultimate purpose of salvation working in our lives is that we should produce good works.
   a. Good works do not earn salvation
   b. Salvation produces good works by us
   c. Salvation comes in to us; Good works come out from us as a result.

   1. “workmanship” – poiema – which means “that which is made”, “work” and it has the connotation of a “work of art” and specifically in the Greek it refers to the creation of “a poem”, including fiction.
   2. “having been created” – kisthentes (aorist passive of ktizo) which means “to create”. This is pointing back to God’s new creation of us in Christ.