

28. Ephesians 2:9 is the continuation of verse 8 and it begins with the repetition of the negative conjunction **οὐκ (ouk)**: “not,” used to again deny the reality of an alleged statement.
29. The thought that is forbidden is in association with the phrase in verse 8, “and this salvation is not from the source of yourselves.”
30. Anything other than faith alone in Christ alone is categorized as a system of works for salvation.
31. This is summarized by the prepositional phrase “of works” indicated by the ablative of source of the preposition **ἐξ (ex)**: “from the source.”
32. The object of the preposition is the noun **ἔργον (érgon)**: “works.” “Not from the source of works.”
33. The context in which works are abolished is salvation. There are several categories of works that are included.
34. Verbal works include confessing one’s sins publically, making a public profession of penitence for one’s sins, speaking in “tongues,” inviting Christ into one’s heart.
35. There are those who believe performing rituals will result in salvation such as baptism, circumcision, taking oaths.
36. Some are convinced of salvation by performing some physiological act such as walking an aisle, raising one’s hand, holding a venomous snake, or falling down on one’s knees.
37. There are those works imposed or generally expected by certain churches: the requirement to join a church, give money, tithe (varying between 10% before taxes or 10% after taxes), perform duties around the church, and subscribe to certain moral principles within in the community.

38. Some require penitence by giving up tawdry behaviors while taking up those more amenable to genteel society.
39. Many of these requirements include the process of behavior modification. To be declared saved imposes supervision by a Clipboard Committee.
40. For believers, there are several “works” mentioned above that could find their legitimate place in the field of divine good, motivated by resident doctrine, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
41. However, none is found in the doctrine of salvation which is clearly presented in Scripture as faith alone in Christ alone, one of whose references is found in verse 8.
42. To emphasize this truth, verse 9 continues with the phrase “not from the source of works.” It continues with the phrase, “lest anyone should boast.”
43. The entire concept of divine salvation centers on the fact that mankind is fallen, incapable of resolving its condition, and solely dependent upon a divine solution, but without any merit to warrant its availability.
44. This ball is exclusively in God’s court which He supplies through nonmeritorious grace. Paul writes in:
Romans 3:23 - all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
v. 24 - being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.
45. Fallen man cannot have a relationship with perfect God. God must provide a means by which rapport might be accomplished.
46. This means of restoration is performed by God who justifies those who believe through the imputation of His divine righteousness.