

## Three Words

**TEXT:** Acts 11:11-14

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. WE ARE SAVED BY THE WORDS OF THE GOSPEL (**Rom. 1:16**).
  - 1. They must be the right words (**1 Tim. 6:4**; **2 Tim. 1:13**; **Titus 1:9**).
  - 2. Those words must be understood properly.
- B. MUCH ERROR IS THE RESULT OF REDFINING BASIC WORDS TO FIT BELIEFS.
- C. WE WANT TO LOOK AT THREE OF THOSE WORDS.

### I. FAITH (**Rom. 5:1-2**).

- A. THE TENDANCY IS TO LIMIT THIS WORD TO ITS NARROWEST MEANING ... ACCEPTING THE GOSPEL AS TRUE.
- B. IN THE SCRIPTURES THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF FAITH (**Heb. 11:6**):
  - 1. There is a God.
    - a. God's testimony (**Psa. 19:1**; **Rom. 1:20**).
    - b. Man's smallness (**Psa. 8:1-4**).
    - c. God created man ... on purpose (**Gen. 1:26**). With a purpose (**Ecc. 12:13-14**).
    - d. Intelligent design vs. monkeys at a typewriter. Purpose or accident?

*Where did it all come from?*

- e. Jesus is God's Son (**John 20:30-31**). **The gospel is true!**
- 2. Faith includes trust, or it is incomplete (**Heb. 11:6**).
  - a. Trust and obey (**Mark 16:16**).
  - b. Trust in God in impossible circumstances (**Heb. 11:17-19**).
    - Heroes of faith.
    - Bro. Cassius ðJump through this wall! God will make the hole.
  - c. Faith produces what? (**Gal. 5:6**).
  - d. Faith without works (**James 2:24**).
  - e. By faith, Abraham obeyed (**Heb. 11:8**; **Rom. 16:25-26**).

### II. GRACE (**Eph. 2:8**).

- A. DEFINITION: "good-will, loving-kindness, favor" (**Thayer**). SAVED BY GRACE.
- B. TWO INCORRECT DEFINITIONS:
  - 1. **Unconditional Favor** - No passage demands that it is unconditional.
  - 2. **Unmerited Favor** - We teach "unmerited" because the context of our faith demands it.
- C. SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT - A PRODUCT OF GRACE. HOW DOES IT WORK.
  - 1. Though man must be active, his salvation comes neither through his own wisdom (**1 Cor. 1:21**), or his own merit (**Rom. 3:9-10**).
  - 2. **Titus 3:4-5**. Salvation comes by way of mercy, not merit (**Luke 17:10**).
    - No room for boasting!**
  - 3. Are works necessary? In **Ephesians 2**, faith is a work. It is man's part.
  - 4. Some contend that faith is the gift, therefore God's work in us.
    - ( see **John 6:28-29** ). Whose work is faith?
  - 5. Conditions given (**1 John 1:6-7**; **Mark 16:16**; **James 1:22**; **Heb. 5:8-9**).

### III. WORKS (**James 2:24**).

- A. SOME SEE WORKS IN OPPOSITION TO FAITH AND GRACE. THEY EQUATE WORKS WITH MERIT, AND BELITTLE LAW-KEEPING.
- B. WHEN THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT WORKS, OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS MEANT.

1. Salvation is conditioned on obedience (**Heb. 5:8-9; 2 Thess. 1:7-9**).
  2. Disobedience equated with disbelief (**Heb. 3:18-19**).
  3. Obedience is necessary to salvation.
- C. NOT ALL WORKS QUALIFY AS OBEDIENCE.
1. Not by works **WHICH HE DEVICES FOR HIMSELF** (**Col. 2:8; Prov. 14:12**).
  2. Not by works **OF THE OLD LAW** (**Gal. 2:16; Heb. 10:1-4**).
  3. Not by works **OF MERIT** (**Eph. 2:8-9; Luke 17:10**).
  4. Not by works **THAT DO NOT DEVELOP** or in which he has become **COMPLACENT** (**1 Cor. 15:58; Jas. 1:22**).
  5. JUSTIFIED BY WORKS **OF THE GOSPEL** (**Gal. 5:6**). What are they?
    - a. Believe on his Son (**John 3:16; Heb. 11:6**).
    - b. Repent of our sins (**Acts 17:30-31**).
    - c. All **will** confess (**Phil. 2:9; Rom. 10:10**).
    - d. Baptism (**Acts 2:38**).
    - e. **Rom. 6:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:14-15**. Newness of Life

### **CONCLUSION: HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED?**

- A. GOD'S GRACE IS FOR YOU.
- B. DO YOU BELIEVE AND TRUST HIS WORD?
- C. HAVE YOU OBEYED THE LORD?