

## Do You Believe? BE AVAILABLE

Opening –

What are things that go together? When I say salt you say Pepper

Bert – Ernie

Bonnie and Clyde

Batman and Robin

Marco – Polo

Birds and Bees

Sugar and Spice

Adam and Eve

Peanut butter and Jelly

GRACE and Faith and Works

For us Lutherans we are good with the Grace and Faith it's the works that we are very cautious too.

**THE MEANS OF YOUR SALVATION**

*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. (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

1. **GRACE:** The Basis of your Salvation. Verse 8 says, "For by GRACE you have been saved..." Grace describes that which is freely given. It is not earned or deserved. It is a GIFT.

2. The **FACT** of your Salvation. The passive voice means that salvation was something which was done TO you. You did not save yourself. You were not able to save yourself. You need a Savior

3. **FAITH:** The Instrument of your Salvation.

faith is NOT. Somewhat confused in our society today including some churches

Faith is not mere **KNOWLEDGE**. James 2:19 says that "the devils believe and tremble" - they have faith that God exists, but this is not the same as saving faith.

Faith is not a mere **SUBJECTIVE FEELINGS** True faith has content. It is based upon objective facts.

Faith is not **\_OPTIMISM** or a **POSTIVE ATTITUDE\_**. Motivational speakers like to talk about how you need to have faith in yourself. But having faith in yourself only works if there is something in yourself that is worthy of that faith.

Here are three elements in faith.

a.. Our faith is not in faith - but in the object of our faith - In Jesus.

b. The second element of faith is **PERSONAL SAVIOR** For me Trusting In Jesus alone for salvation

c. The third element of faith is commitment.

4. Not as a result of works : (Ephesians 2:9). The Bible teaches that you have a just wage. There **IS** something for which you have worked and which you deserve. It is **DEATH**.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23).

5. Boasting is excluded: (Ephesians 2:9). You cannot boast in your salvation. You cannot even boast in your faith. Boasting in your faith would be like boasting in the fact that you reached out to take a check from somebody. Suppose you have a tremendous debt but someone offers to pay it for you, writes out a check for you for \$500,000. And you reach out and take it from him. How absurd it would be if you then went around saying to everybody, "Isn't it wonderful that I had what it took to reach out and grab that check?" The wonderful thing would not be that you had received the gift, but that it was given in the first place.

By Grace - Everything we possess as believers is ours through and by the grace of God. Verses 8-9 made it very clear that works have no part in our salvation. In other words, works do not save us, but we are saved to work in and under His Grace. Our living for Him, according to His will brings glory to His name, and that is all He wants from us!

All around this room are living, breathing testimonies to the live-changing power of God. All around this room sit the examples of His "workmanship." All around this room sits the tangible evidence that God makes a new thing when He saves a soul! God is a Master Craftsman for our good works.

**Ephesians 2:10**—It's why you exist. Who set us up (Jesus) The purpose of our lives

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." —Ephesians 2:10

Message Points:

Don't ignore it. No excuse. Or get too busy or set our own agenda or if we feel like it fits or not.

—It's sin of omission when you ignore God's prompting.

Scripture: "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." —James 4:17

Accept His advanced planning. He is in control submit to Him your whole life...

As a child of the King God uses us to share and live Christ. He moves us beyond our comfort zone or attitude to forgive others or help someone in need.

So we need Gods help to live. His Word and sacrament.

Baptism / Lords supper

Receive His Forgiveness. And empowerment in our lives.

We need to pray for alinement of our lives with you God. Your will and YOUR schedule and YOUR goals be done. This is not an attitude of whatever or drudgery or guilt or ok I will do my best.... Then we need to see Grace again.

We are Gods to Gods good will and to Do good works

This is not about what we FEEL will be good but yield to Gods will and do good.

With loving care and infinite skill, God shaped us by His grace and wrote His love into our lives. We are "His Workmanship!")

When we think of the workmanship of God, we normally think of the wonders of the universe. Or how we are fearfully and wonderfully made and how each strand of our DNA contains more information than the most complex computer.

These are indeed wonderful. But what is more wonderful still is that God is making the very character of Christ in us= by Grace. At the cross forgiven and enriched.

Everyday

Moments that have the potential to be “defining moments” pass us by if we aren’t paying attention.

Being available, present, and obedient is the strongest way to show Him (and others) your love.

We need to keep our eyes on the cross reminders of His Grace and work within us

Faith requires action, movement, response . . . otherwise it’s just knowledge. What action do you need to take this week? Ask God to reveal to you those moments in your everyday routine that could be defining for someone else.

Pray that God would open your eyes to see the needs around you and make your hands and feet ready to act!

There are no such things as coincidences. Every moment is created for us to do good.

Be open to give up your schedule to live by God’s schedule

Developing an awareness of holy moments in your midst and responding accordingly.

Conc: Martin Luther, champion of faith alone, wrote the following: “Faith is a living, busy, active, powerful thing; it is impossible for it not to do us good continually. It never asks whether good works are to be done, but has done them before there is time to ask the question, and it is always doing them.”

Faith without works is dead. Otherwise It’s simply knowledge. Real faith opens us to live for Jesus.

By scripture By Faith By Grace compels us to act, propels us to act, won’t let us rest until we do—and then provides another opportunity when the current one passes.

Amen