

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT SALVATION

Text - Jonah 2:9

Introduction: We are living in an age when knowledge is literally exploding. There is more knowledge available at our fingertips than any other time in our history. One thing all of this knowledge has taught us, however, is, that nobody knows everything.

A census-taker knocked on the door of an old backwoods shack in West Virginia. An old timer came to the door and asked the man what he wanted. *"The President has sent us across the country to find out exactly how many people live in the United States"* the man said. The hillbilly said, *"Well I'm sorry you came all the way out here to ask me because I ain't got the faintest idea."*

Now, you don't have to know everything but you had better know the truth about salvation. Salvation is the reason Jesus came into the world. Confusion about salvation means disaster. The message of salvation is matter of eternal life or eternal death. Let's look **Three Truths About Salvation.**

I. THE EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION IS DIFFERENT

We don't all have the same experiences surrounding our salvation. All are saved by grace, but the working of grace in our life oftentimes is different. All are saved alike but not all that are saved are alike. There is no difference; but there is a difference.

- A. Saul's conversion was marked with **clearness** (Acts 9:1-5)
- B. Lydia's conversion was marked with **quietness** (Acts 16:14,15)
- C. Philippian jailer's conversion marked by **suddenness** (Acts 16: 23-34)

II. THE ESSENCE OF SALVATION IS DIVINE

"Salvation is of the Lord" in its **ORIGINATION!**

The plan of salvation is entirely of God. No human intellect and no created intelligence assisted God in the planning of salvation. It is a plan too splendid to have been the product of any mind except the mind of God.

"Salvation is of the Lord" in its **EXECUTION!**

God not only planned salvation, but He also provided the means whereby He could justly accomplish it. The Lord Jesus Christ provided sufficient

atonement by His precious blood to put away the sin of the world Salvation is of the Lord in its application

"Salvation is of the Lord" in its **DURATION!**

Those who have God's salvation are eternally secure in Christ. They are kept by the power of God. To entertain any idea that a man is saved one day, only to be lost on another is to believe that salvation is of works, not of grace.

A convert gave their first testimony. Thrillingly and triumphantly she said, "The Lord saved me through and through and for Keeps!"

There are a few things that are fundamental to any salvation experience. Though the circumstances around a salvation may differ, the substance of any salvation is always the same. Though the situations of a salvation may differ, the foundations of any salvation are always the same.

III. THE EVIDENCE OF SALVATION IS DEMONSTRATED

II Corinthians 5:17

- Here is a **message which is INCLUSIVE** - "any man"
- Here is a **miracle which is CREATIVE** "new creature"

During the mighty movements of the Holy Spirit in the Moody-Sanke meetings in Dublin, the worldly father of C.T. Studd was gloriously saved. He invited some of his worldly companions to come to his home so that he could tell them the wonderful news. When one wealthy English sportsman arrived at the railway station he was met by the coachman. He could not wait till he got to the house to know what had happened to his old friend, so he began to question the coachman.

"I hear that something remarkable has happened to your master. I hear he's got religion. Please tell me about it. In what way is Mr. Studd changed?"

"Oh," said the Irish coachman, "It's a revolution. In one sense he is still the same man--he's in the same body. But the best way I can explain him is he's a new man in the old skin."

Conclusion: Though the experience of salvation may be different, the essence of salvation must be divine for us all, and the evidence of conversion mandates a demonstration in all those who are saved. Have you been saved? Have you repented and put your faith in Jesus?

I recently came across a piece entitled, "**Rules that Guys Wished Women Knew.**"

10. Ask for what you want. Subtle hints don't work.
9. Yes and No are perfectly acceptable answers.
8. Anything we say 6 or 8 months ago is inadmissible in an argument.
7. You have too many shoes.
6. Learn to work the toilet seat. If it's up, then put it down.
5. If something we said can be interpreted 2 ways, and one of the ways makes you sad or angry; then, we meant the other one.
4. You have too many clothes.
3. You can either ask us to do something, or tell us how you want it done. But, you can't do both.
2. Sometimes we're not thinking about you. Live with it.
1. Christopher Columbus didn't need directions. Neither do we.

We live in a day that is filled with knowledge. In fact, the past several years have well been referred to as "*the knowledge explosion.*" We are going farther, flying higher and traveling faster than at any other time in history.

I recently read the story of **Karen Cheng**, a 17 yr. old phenom from Fremont, California. She achieved a perfect score of 800 on both sections of the SAT test. She also got a perfect 8000 on the rigorous University of California acceptance index. Never before had anyone accomplished this staggering intellectual feat.

Karen, a straight-A student, described herself as a typical teenager who munches on junk food and talks for hours on the telephone. She even claimed to be a procrastinator who didn't do her homework until the very last minute.

However, Karen's teachers told a different story. They refer to her as "Wonder Woman," because of her unquenchable thirst for knowledge and her uncanny ability to retain whatever she reads. But, when a reporter asked Karen, "What is the meaning of life?" She replied, "I have no idea. I would like to know myself."

FACT OR FICTION?

1. Professional baseball umpires are required to wear black underwear...*FACT*
2. Humans have unique finger prints. Gorillas have unique nose prints...*FACT*
3. The average American eats 46 slices of pizza per year...*FACT*
4. Smoking is the leading cause of house fires in the U.S...*FICTION (cooking is)*
5. The first music record ever made featured a recital of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"...*FACT*
6. Velcro was invented in Great Britain...*FICTION (Switzerland)*
7. The most popular pet name in the U.S. is Smokey...*FICTION (Max)*
8. The bat is the only mammal that flies...*FACT*
9. Muslim people are asked to tithe 10% of their income...*FICTION (2.5%)*
10. It takes 11 feet of wire to make a Slinky...*FICTION (63 ft.)*