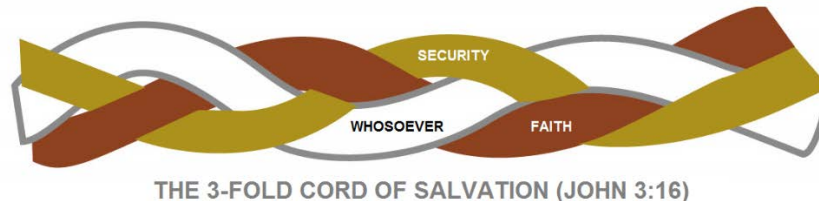


THREE CORDS OF THE GOSPEL

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July 30, 2018



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

We know the gospel as defined in 1 Corinthians 15:1-3, is the death, burial, and resurrection of our Saviour. We also know that salvation is close to each person – in their mouth and in their heart (Romans 10).

We know in Galatians chapter 1 Paul pronounces a curse on any one who perverts the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And, although basic, we see some groups teach error in the doctrine of salvation (soteriology), which error is so obviously against the Doctrine of Christ. This short paper is to make simple the three basic tenets of salvation that we ought never to forget, and mention frequently as gospel ministers. These are all illustrated perfectly in the golden verse of the Bible, John 3:16:

These are the “Three Cords of the Gospel”:

I. “Whosoever” can be saved.

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
1 John 2:2

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
Acts 17:30

II. Salvation is by Grace through Faith to whosoever “believeth.”:

Salvation is a gift. Notice Ephesians 2:8-10:

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Grace is unmerited favor. We do nothing in the manner of works to merit God's favor.

III. Eternal Life is promised – once saved – always saved: “*Hath everlasting life.*”:

The gift of salvation is given and God is not double-minded – when God gives, he does not take the gift back.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.
Romans 11:29

See also John 10:27, Romans 8:35-39

Since we do nothing in the manner of works to merit God's favor, we can do nothing to lose this gift. We are “sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise” as Paul said in Ephesians chapter one.

Other Doctrines of Christ shown in the verse:

- **God** – contrasted to Atheism
- **Loved** – contrasted to Deism – that God does not interfere in the lives of men (non-interventionism)
- **World** – God moved to repair enmity – none seek after God
- **Gave** – Behold the goodness and severity of God (Romans 11:22)
- **Only Begotten Son** – (Deity of Jesus Christ) – John 14:9 – Contrasted to JW, other religions
- **Perish** – Hell – contrasted to Adventism, J.W., Hinduism, and Buddhism.