

# Sovereign Grace Church

## *“Faith and....” outline*

October 22, 2017

### **Romans 1: 16-17; Ephesians 2: 8-10**

*We will continue this morning in looking at another Reformation related theme. Justification by faith alone was the rallying cry of the Reformation. The key word in the phrase was the word “alone.” The Roman Church did not deny that justification was by faith but insisted that that faith had to be accompanied by our own good works. However, this important phrase leaves unanswered exactly what the relationship between faith and our own good works is.*

*Other questions concern how faith is related to knowledge and to reason. Does faith replace knowledge? Is faith opposed to reason? As the proverbial child in Sunday School answered, “Faith is believing what you know ain't true!” Is he right? It is also a common belief in modern universities that faith is opposed to reason. They are opposites. Is this true? Today we will look at the relationship between faith and knowledge, reason, works and you.*

#### **1. Faith and Knowledge Does faith replace knowledge?**

- **Faith must be directed to what we Know.**  
II Tim. 1: 12; Jn 14: 15; Gen 12:1
  
- **How is knowledge related to belief?**  
Rom. 1: 18-21

#### **2. Faith and Reason Does faith oppose reason?**

Isa. 1: 18; Jn 12: 27; Heb. 12: 3; I Pet 3: 15; Ac 28: 23-24

3. Faith and Works *Does faith indicate the complete absence of good works?*  
Eph. 2: 8-10; Rom. 3: 24-28; Jn 6: 40; I Jn. 2: 15

4. Faith and You *What is your responsibility?*  
Ac 16: 31

Summary Points: Eph. 2: 8-10; Matt 28: 19-20

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Do you agree that faith must have an object? Can you think of an occasion where one might have faith with no object? What about having faith in faith? What would it look like to believe, but not have an object of your belief? What about knowledge? Does knowledge require an object? What would it look like to know but not have an object of your knowing? Where does truth fit in to our faith?
2. Is it disrespectful to God to use our reason to attempt to know Him and to understand Him? Is it possible to believe in Jesus without using our reasoning at some level? Why might one say that it is disrespectful to use our reasoning in attempting to know whether God is there? Why might it not be?
3. Is it possible to be saved and have no interest in good works. Are we saved by a good work? Who's? Do our works have anything to do with our living the Christian life? What is their place? Do they merit appreciation from God? Why or why not?
4. In three words, how is it possible for God to be sovereign in my salvation and I be responsible for believing in Christ in order to be saved? What follows?