

## INTRODUCTION TO THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH

Today I begin to share my series which I have titled, “The Right Kind of Faith”.

Through the years there has been a debate in evangelical circles about the NATURE of saving faith. All true Christians agree that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We all agree on justification by FAITH ALONE! The great issue is over what constitutes the NATURE OF SAVING FAITH. The debate revolves around what is involved in a saving faith response to Christ.

More specifically the issue is over the Lordship of Christ. Must one accept Christ as personal Lord as well as Savior, or is it sufficient to merely accept Christ as Savior? This is the great debate! My view is that in saving faith a person believes on Christ as their personal Lord as well as personal Savior.

I have dubbed the view that says one need not accept Christ as Lord in order to be saved as “***The Lordless Gospel***”. At best such a “gospel” is incomplete and an incomplete gospel if presented as the FULL gospel in reality is a FALSE gospel. The GREAT issue in salvation is THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH!

After 38 years of full-time ministry my heart is full. The hallmark of my ministry has been verse-by-verse study through the books of the Bible. I have had the privilege to expositionally teach through the entire Bible and some books more than once. The result of this inductive study of the whole counsel of God has deepened me in my conviction that the glory for our salvation belongs ONLY to God; that there is a mysterious tension between God’s sovereignty and human responsibility; and that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, BUT that it must be THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH.

One of the great issues throughout the Church Age has been the debate over the NATURE of a true saving faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God, so the issue of FAITH is the critical issue in life (Heb. 11:6).

In my mind of all the specialized studies I have committed myself to through the years, this one was most important. As a young man, I gave 2 full years to this study in a concentrated manner as I studied the entire

Bible as hard as I could concerning what it teaches regarding “***the nature of saving faith.***” The result of that study was the first edition of this paper in 1990. I then built on that study for over 30 years and this revised work is the result of that prolonged day-in and day-out study. I consider it to be the greatest STUDY of my life. I sincerely hope that it presents me approved unto God as “***a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth***” (2 Tim. 2:15). The GREAT EXAM is yet to come! It makes me TREMBLE!

Salvation is by GRACE through FAITH in Christ. Period. However, having said this I believe that multitudes of people who call themselves Christian (including MANY in evangelical churches) have a faulty view of faith, and to be more specific of saving faith. I believe that many people that call themselves "believers" do not in fact have a saving faith and are in truth on their way to an eternal hell. This is of great concern. Moreover, many (including evangelicals) today are propagating a gospel that lends itself to this tragic situation. They preach a faith that is void of repentance.

They may stress the WORK of Christ but neglect the PERSON of Christ. To them faith is a passive concept and not an active concept and so they neglect to put an emphasis on the will. Many evangelicals in reality hold to a view that sees intellectual assent as equivalent to saving faith. Receiving forgiveness is stressed but not receiving the GIVER. They seem to claim that saving faith may in all practical terms remain alone, while the reformers affirmed that FAITH AND FAITH ALONE SAVES, BUT THE FAITH THAT SAVES DOES NOT REMAIN ALONE.

The pseudo-faith a bogus or incomplete gospel fosters is of GREAT concern!!! To add works of any kind to grace is to be condemned in the strongest of terms. But likewise, a faith that claims to be saving, but doesn't involve a change of mind which in turn results in a change of nature and therefore a changed life is to be equally condemned. The result is the same -they go to an ETERNAL HELL!!!

We are saved by GRACE alone through FAITH alone in Christ ALONE, but it must be the right kind of faith! A true saving faith is a life-changing kind of faith (cf. Eph. 2:8-10).

**Titus 1:16 (NKJV)**

**16** They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

**James 2:19 (NKJV)**

**19** You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

It's not enough to merely have an intellectual assent, we must from our heart believe in Christ as Lord and Savior in a life-changing way (Rom. 10:9-10).

**Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)**

**9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.