

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH ***(The Gospel of Christ's LORDSHIP)***

The GOSPEL (good news) is not merely about what Christ has done for us it is also about WHO He is as Lord-God. Jesus must be believed on for WHO He is as Lord as well as Savior! It's not just a matter of receiving a GIFT (as is so often stated) but rather a matter of receiving the GIVER for WHO He is!

CHRIST'S SOVEREIGN LORDSHIP: In introducing Jesus, John the Baptist said the One coming after me *"is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose."* (Mark 1:7). In Mark 1:22-27 we see Jesus *"taught them as one having authority"* (v. 22); and exercised authority over demons (v. 23-27). In Mark 2:28 Jesus is shown to be *"Lord of the Sabbath"*. In Mark 4:35-41 Jesus demonstrated power over nature as he calmed the wind and the sea. In Mark 6:1-6 unbelief failed to properly recognize the Lordship of Christ and He MARVELED at their unbelief. In Mark 10:51 Jesus exhibited power over blindness; and in 16:6 we see that even death could not hold Him.

Christ's LORDSHIP is central in the GOSPELS: Jesus demonstrated this when His enemies all fell to the ground as He announced His identity as "I am" (Jn. 18:6). He claimed it as seen in His claim to be a greater than Jonah and a greater than Solomon (Matt. 12:41-42); and as seen in His resurrection claim that all authority is given to Him in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18). That is AUTHORITY over all! That is LORDSHIP authority!

Under inspiration Peter declared Jesus to be, ***"the Christ, the Son of the living God"*** (Matt. 16:16). Christ made the issue His Lordship in showing that the Son of David is also David's Lord (Matt. 22:42-45). Christ's critics made issue of the fact that He called Himself *"the Son of God"* (Matt. 27:40). Demons openly testified that Jesus is the *"Son of God"* (Mk. 3:11; also see Lk. 4:34, 41; Matt. 8:29).

At His birth the angel announced His identity as being that of a *"Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Lk. 2:11). At His baptism God the Father said to Jesus, *"You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased"* (Lk. 3:22). John who wrote his gospel so that we might BELIEVE STARTED and ENDED his gospel with the emphasis that Jesus is GOD (Jn. 1:1; 20:31). Jesus told the Jews that unless they believed in Him as I AM they would die in their

sins (Jn. 8:24, compare 8:58). Unbelievers clearly understood Jesus' claim to be God (cf. Jn. 10:24, 33; 18:33, 36, 37; 19:7, 19). Some who understood Christ's claim to be Lord-God came to believe (cf. Jn. 9:38; 11:27; 20:28; Matt. 27:54). Recognition of Christ's Lordship authority is involved in true saving faith (Lk. 7:1-10).

NOTE: The word "Christ" is a comprehensive O.T. term which refers to the promised, coming, ruling, delivering, One. He would be both God and man in one person (cf. Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; 52:13 – 53:12). The titles "Son of God", "Holy One of God", "Lord", "Son of man", "Son of David", "King of the Jews", etc., are closely linked to the term Christ and are often interrelated. Each title has a special nuance, but each name related to the term "Christ" is inherently linked to His sovereign authority which is embraced by faith in salvation (cf. Matt. 16:16; 22:42-45; Mark 15:32; Jn. 1:49; 9:35, 38; 10:24, 33, 36; Lk. 2:11; 4:34 - cf. 41; Acts 2:36).

Paul in summary of the gospel says this in 1 Cor 15:3-4...

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV)

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Note very carefully that the gospel is that CHRIST died for our sins and that it was He who was buried and rose again! It wasn't just anybody who did this - but THE CHRIST. It was the special chosen One as prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures Who did this. His death presents Him as SAVIOR, His resurrection presents Him as LORD-God over all (Rom. 1:4).

It is this CHRIST Who is Savior and risen Lord Who must be believed on in order to be saved.

BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (Acts 16:30-31).