

## THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (“ROCK TRUTH”)

**Matthew 16:16 (NKJV)**

16 Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

**John 20:31 (NKJV)**

31 but these are written that you may **believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**, and that believing you may have life in His name.

When Christ said to Peter in Matthew 16:18 “***on this rock I will build My Church***” He was referring back to the TRUTH that had just been supernaturally revealed to Peter in verse 16 when he said, “***You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.***” This is the solid “Rock Truth” on which the Church is built.

This is BEDROCK gospel truth affirmed and confessed by every true believing member of Christ’s forever family called the CHURCH (cf. 1 Jn. 2:22, 4:2, 4:15, 5:1). Everything builds on this great heart confession!

John, the apostle, wrote his entire gospel so that we might BELIEVE. In John 20:30-31 John states his purpose in writing as being: “***that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.***”

Peter’s great confession and John’s great purpose statement of what we must believe to be saved are the SAME THING! The Church is built on saving faith in the PERSON of Jesus Who is the Christ, the Son of the living God! NOTE the emphasis is so strongly on the PERSON of Christ and WHO He is in both Peter’s confession and John’s purpose statement! It is for this very reason I make so much over the PERSON of Christ in the matter of saving faith!

***“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” – Matt. 16:16***  
***“... believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God..” – John 20:31***

“***The Christ***” refers to the special chosen One repeatedly prophesied about in the Old Testament. This UNIQUE One would come as Deliverer and as King (cf. Zech. 9:9). But Peter and John BOTH emphasize He is “***the Son of God***” meaning He is of the very nature of God. He is God of very God. He is not merely a man, but God incarnate. He is God come in human flesh (cf. Mt. 1:23; Jn. 1:1, 14). A saving faith comes to believe this: Jesus is the prophesied Christ of the O.T. Scriptures - He is God come in the flesh (cf. Isa. 9:6-7, Jer. 23:5-6). This is what we must believe - “***and that believing you may have life in His name.***” (Jn. 20:31)

Many evangelicals emphasize Christ’s FINISHED CROSS WORK (ALL IMPORTANT, I READILY AFFIRM) in evangelism, but make scant mention of His PERSON. That is a serious flaw! It is so serious that I am convinced many present a “HALF gospel” resulting in many false conversions. Many people claim to have accepted Christ as Savior (they want fire insurance), but have never personally grappled with WHO He is as Lord and God (because they don’t want a MASTER-GOD).

Consequently, they NEVER cry out “***My Lord and my God!***” as did Thomas (Jn. 20:28). It is this confession that is presented in John as the climactic example of N.T. saving faith. In this confession Jesus affirmed the BELIEF of Thomas and then said, “***blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed*** [in the same way as Thomas].” (Jn. 20:29). And then John went on to give His PURPOSE statement which presents essentially the very same premise as

an evangelistic challenge; namely, that we have to “**believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**” (cf. Jn. 20:30-31).

The GOSPEL according to 1 Cor. 15:1-4 is that **Christ** died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. But NOTE what gives this death for sin and this resurrection such GREAT VALUE is that **CHRIST** did it.

This was accomplished by the **CHRIST** Who is the **SON OF GOD**. This happened in fulfillment of the OT Scriptures which prophesied this of **THE CHRIST** (cf. Isa. 9, 53, etc.).

In the concept of “**THE CHRIST**” is the reality of **Divinity**! Christ is a DIVINE SAVIOR Who must be personally appropriated by faith.

It is this “ROCK TRUTH” upon which the Church is built and nothing less! Don’t claim to be part of the CHURCH unless you believe the TRUTH it is built upon as seen in Matthew 16:16-18. Don’t claim to have saving faith unless you believe the truth of John 20:31. Authentic faith personally believes in Jesus as THE CHRIST Who is the SON OF GOD!