

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH *(Why Christ Came Into The World)*

In order to be saved one must believe but in order to believe one must KNOW what to believe. Paul makes this clear in Romans 10:14 when he says, ***“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”*** CONTENT is essential when it comes to getting the gospel right. God *“desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim. 2:4). In order to be saved people must first have the RIGHT KNOWLEDGE – they must KNOW the right thing before they can properly believe in it.

WHY CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD

If you were to ask the average “evangelical” (whatever that is) why Jesus Christ came into the world the number one answer would most probably be something along the lines of coming to be our Savior. And that is certainly TRUE! As Paul says, *“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”*(1 Tim. 1:15).

However, that is only part of the truth! One of my GREAT concerns through the years has been that many professing Christians present a “partial gospel” as though it is the whole gospel.

What I mean by a “partial gospel” is that many evangelical presentations of the gospel, while emphasizing the WORK of Christ as Savior, fail to emphasize the PERSON of Christ as Lord-God. As an example, note these points in a tract put out by a national ministry.

1. God loves you.
2. We are sinners.
3. Jesus died for you.
4. Receive Christ as Savior.

All these points are good and true, but as a gospel presentation, it is incomplete. It completely leaves out the PERSON of Christ in terms of Who He is as LORD-GOD! This is nowhere to be found in the entire tract! That is a serious omission.

Yes, Christ came to seek and to save, but the Scripture is very clear that He also came to reveal God to us (Gospel of John; 1 Jn. 5:20). This too was an essential part of His mission. In John 18:37 Jesus told Pilate, *“I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.”*

The gospel of John is called the gospel of BELIEF because John wrote so that we might BELIEVE and thereby have life. From the very first verse John makes the issue about WHO Jesus is as God (Jn. 1:1). In the prologue he says we become children of God by believing *“in His name”* (Jn. 1:12). His NAME is His PERSON – WHO Jesus is. And then we have the seven “I AM” statements in John emphasizing His PERSON as eternal God. It builds to the climax of doubting Thomas in the resurrection recognizing Jesus as *“My Lord and my God”* which Christ recognized as believing in Him (Jn. 20:28-29).

This is followed up with John’s purpose statement in John 20:30-31 in which he says these things 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”* (emphasis mine). BELIEVING is all important but it is connected to HIS NAME – that is WHO Jesus is as God. To miss this is to miss the entire main thrust of John’s gospel!

Paul in emphasizing the gospel that must be believed said that he preached “Christ Jesus the Lord” (2 Cor. 4:5). He followed up with this gospel revelation, namely that all true believers in their HEARTS have come to see the truth of GOD in the person of Jesus Christ!

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV)

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:20 (NKJV)

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ includes His PERSON as well as His WORK! He is LORD and SAVIOR and all true believers in saving faith have recognized Him for WHO He is!