

## **THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH**

### **“BELIEVE IN HIS NAME”**

In many “evangelical” sectors the gospel presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ has become very weak. Something is missing! Strangely enough, it is the PERSON of Christ! Imagine that!!!

Many presentations are strong on the FINISHED WORK of Christ but either neglect or completely leave out His PERSON. Worst of all – they don’t seem to even realize it! In an effort to protect GRACE, they have left out the Godship/Lordship of Christ. That is a grave omission! A complete gospel presentation will emphasize BOTH the WORK of Christ and the PERSON of Christ.

### ***THE GOSPEL OF BELIEF – THE NAME OF THE GOD-CHRIST***

Some form of the word believe is found 98 times in the book John (called “The Gospel of Belief”). The book both BEGINS and ENDS with this emphasis.

#### **John 1:12 (NKJV)**

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **BELIEVE IN HIS NAME**: (emphasis mine)

#### **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**. (emphasis mine)

To believe in Christ’s **NAME** is to believe in **His PERSON**. It is to believe in Him for **WHO HE IS!!!!** According to John, Jesus is God – He is Lord!!! The THEME of the book of John is the LORDSHIP of Christ. The book begins with “the Word [Jesus] was God” (Jn. 1:1) and climaxes with the confession of Thomas: “My Lord and my God” (Jn. 28:28), followed by the finale of the purpose statement that all this was “written that you may believe that Jesus is the CHRIST, the SON OF GOD [EMPHASIS MINE], and that believing you may have life in His name.” (Jn. 20:31).

**Conclusion**: All these things are written in John that we might believe in His NAME!!! The climactic illustration of doubting Thomas coming to

BELIEVE when he says *“My Lord and my God!”* (Jn. 20:28) underscores that true saving faith PERSONALLY embraces the PERSON of Christ as *“my Lord and my God!”* It is a matter of BELIEVING IN HIS NAME!!!

The PURPOSE statement of John indelibly makes the point. Twice in John 20:31 John says it is a matter of BELIEVING. And then specifically he says it is a matter of believing that Jesus is THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD. This for John is the whole issue. It is not a matter of works, but a matter of believing. And it is a matter of believing in Jesus for WHO He is.

We must believe in Him as “the Christ”. Christ is a title. It is a title rooted in the Old Testament. Christ literally means “Anointed One” corresponding to the word “Messiah” in the Old Testament. Christ is a COMPREHENSIVE title referring to the special chosen One (“Anointed One”) Who prophetically would come as both a Deliverer and Reigning King and Who would be both God and Man in ONE person (cf. Isa. 9:6-7; 53; Jer. 23:5-6, etc.).

Note that Paul says the gospel is that “CHRIST died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3 – EMPHASIS mine). In other words, it was the special CHOSEN One in fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures WHO did this. To believe in Jesus as the Christ is to believe in Him as the One Who fulfills all the OT Messianic prophecies.

But then John also emphasizes we must believe in Him as “the Son of God”. “Son of God” is also a title that recognizes Jesus as being of the very order of God – God of very God. The Jews tried to kill Jesus because He “said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God” (Jn. 5:18). The Jews understood very well the claim of Christ, they just didn’t believe it! In John 19:7 they said, “He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

To believe in Jesus as the Son of God is to believe in Him as God Who is fully equal with God because He is the eternal God! And the example of “Doubting Thomas” coming to a full New Testament faith illustrates that a true saving faith PERSONALLY embraces Jesus as “My Lord and my God” (Jn. 20:28-29).

John the apostle is clear: A Lordless gospel in fact is no gospel at all! In order to be Savior Jesus must be Lord because salvation is of the Lord (cf. Isa. 43:11; Jonah 2:9). John makes the issue that of BELIEVING IN THE

NAME of Jesus. His name is WHO He is. He is the Christ, the Son of God and we have LIFE by BELIEVING in His NAME!

**Acts 4:12 (NKJV)**

**12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”