

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH ***(The Knowledge of the Truth – The Finished Work of Christ)***

God desires all to be saved and to come to **the knowledge of the truth** (cf. 1 Tim. 2:4). For Paul, this knowledge of the truth includes the **knowledge of sin** (cf. Rom. 3:20); the **knowledge of Christ as Lord** (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4-6); and the **knowledge of Christ as Savior**.

Paul's statement regarding "the knowledge" of the truth in 1 Tim. 2:4 springs out of his statement in 1 Tim. 1:15 that, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners". In the immediate context this "knowledge of the truth" is linked with the fact that Christ is the **ONE Mediator** between God and men who **gave Himself a ransom for all** (1 Tim. 2:5-6).

Christ alone is the BRIDGE to God – there is only ONE Mediator. Jesus alone is "the way" to God (Jn. 14:6). He HIMSELF is the payment for sin (cf. 1 Pet. 3:18)! He Himself is the PROPITIATION (satisfactory payment) for our sins (cf. 1 Jn. 2:2). The heart of the gospel is that "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3). No one else was with Jesus on the cross! He ALONE made payment for sin. To add ANYTHING to Christ's finished work is to nullify the gospel of grace (cf. Gal. 2:21).

G.R.A.C.E. is God's – Riches – At – Christ's – Expense (2 Cor. 8:9). The good news is not what we do – but what Jesus did for us, and He did it ALL! "Jesus paid it all – all to Him we owe." This is essential knowledge of the truth!

John's gospel, "The Gospel of Belief", has two major intersecting emphases. It emphasizes Christ as Lord and it emphasizes Christ as Savior. This is an indissoluble unit. In Jn. 1:29, John the Baptist introduced Jesus as "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" As we come to the end of the book, we find John's accounting of the crucifixion. There in Jn. 19:30, we find that Jesus said, "It is finished!" and then bowed His head in death. "It is finished" translates a single Greek word, the word "*tetelesta*". This word meant "paid in full". As Christ died for our sins, His last word as recorded by John is "PAID IN FULL".

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record that at this very time the veil in front of the Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom indicating that now access was available to God on the basis of Christ's FINISHED WORK (cf.

Mt. 27:51, Mk. 15:38, Lk. 23:45)! The Father's approval of this "finished work" is seen in the resurrection of Jesus (cf. Rom. 4:25).

Paul's consistent testimony is Christ became sin for us so that we might have the righteousness of God in Him (cf. Rom. 5:8-9, 2 Cor. 5:21).

The NT writers are in absolute uniform agreement on this. The writer of Hebrews says of Christ: "For by one offering He has perfected forever..." (Heb. 10:14). Christ has PERFECTED the believer forever! It is a finished work! We don't do it. Jesus did it in His one offering on the cross!

The writer of Hebrews was concerned that some in the audience may have stopped short of saving faith (cf. Heb. 4:1). The temple was still standing and some were at a crossroads. The good news of Christ's FINISHED work had been presented to them and yet they were considering going back to OT ritual and sacrifice for forgiveness.

The writer clearly affirms that a saving faith embraces Christ alone and does not turn back (cf. Heb. 3:14, 10:38-39). Paul counted all things LOSS so that he might gain Christ (cf. Phil. 3:7-9). A saving faith celebrates Christ's finished work and has NO confidence in the flesh (cf. Phil. 3:3).

No one arriving in heaven will say to Jesus, "WE DID IT!" No, the testimony of Scripture is that the multitudes in heaven are saying, "**Worthy is the Lamb** who was slain" (Rev. 5:12). The glory for our salvation is all His. Anything else is another gospel and those holding it are accursed (cf. Gal. 1:8-9).

A drop of works in an ocean of grace pollutes the entire ocean! (cf. Rom. 11:6).