

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

God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). This knowledge begins with the knowledge of sin (cf. Rom. 1-3). The answer to our sin problem is Jesus. The knowledge of the truth also includes knowing about the PERSON of Christ. Jesus is the God-Man. He is Lord and Savior.

One must know about WHO Jesus is as Lord and about His finished WORK as Savior. Both are all important and must be accepted by faith.

Jesus is Lord! This truth rings true in the heart of every true believer. It is a central part of the gospel message. The title “Lord” when used of the risen Jesus always denotes Deity, Sovereign, and Master. In short, it means God-Master.

As believers, we recognize Jesus as Master and ourselves as His slaves (Rom. 6:17, 20, 22-23, 1 Cor. 7:22-23, Col. 4:1, 1 Pet. 2:16, Rev. 22:3, etc.). He bought us with His blood (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We now belong to Him. Recognition of His sovereign authority is a matter of saving faith.

The gospel of John is “the gospel of belief” is a “Lordship” gospel. The book begins by saying Jesus is God (Jn. 1:1); it ends with the climactic example of N.T. saving faith as Thomas cries out, “My Lord and my God!” and Jesus responds, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed.” (Jn. 20:28-29). This is what it truly means to believe in Jesus! Note; it must be personal – “My Lord and my God!”

Between these “bookends” in John, are seven sign-miracles (Jn. 2:1-11, 4:46-54, 5:1-18, 6:5-14, 6:16-21, 9:1-7, 11:1-45) that all point to the Deity/Lordship of Christ, as do the seven “I AM” statements (6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 9, 10:11, 14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1, 5) that comprise the heart of the book.

All are pointing to the PERSON of Christ as Lord. John concludes (prior to the epilogue) with his purpose statement, saying that he has selectively written of these sign-miracles so we might “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (Jn. 20:30-31). His “name” is His PERSON and it is inherently linked with Deity. Saving faith recognizes Jesus as personal Lord-God!

The book of Romans begins by emphasizing that the resurrection declares Jesus to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:3-4).

To truly believe in the resurrection is to recognize Jesus as God/Lord. This is Paul's point in Romans 10:9.

Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

His follow-up summary statement is, "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13). In Romans, Jesus is always referenced as "our Lord" in regard to all believers (cf. 1:3, 4:24, 5:1, 11, 21, 6:11, 23, 7:25, 8:39, 10:9, 13, 14:6-14, 15:6, 16:18, 20, 24). In the scope of Romans 14:6-14, Jesus is referenced as the believers' Lord ten times. This is shown to be the very purpose of Christ's death and resurrection (Rom. 14:9).

Romans 14:9 (NKJV)

9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Jesus is never seen to be Savior of all believers, but Lord of only some. All true believers share in the unity of "one Lord" (Eph. 4:5). It is a matter of saving faith!

2 Cor. 4:4-6 is undeniably a gospel passage. The key issue is the PERSON of Christ. Here Paul says the unbeliever is blinded to the gospel truth of Christ's glory – that He is the very image of God. He goes on to say that his gospel message is to preach "Christ Jesus the Lord"! And then further elaborates that for true believers God "has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor. 4:6).

This knowledge of the truth is necessary to be saved! 2 Corinthians 4:6 shows that in conversion, a miracle of illumination takes place on a personal basis that is comparable to "Let there be light" in Genesis 1:3. This is an illumination of the truth that Jesus is Lord, that He is the very image of God, that He is God of very God. When you look into the face of Jesus with faith, you see God in all His glory! By the Holy Spirit, all true

believers have come to see Jesus as Lord (1 Cor. 12:3). Believe on the **Lord** Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

“Jesus is Lord” is core and essential knowledge of the truth!

“If He is not your Lord, He is not your Savior.” – Adrian Rogers