

The FAITH OF DEMONS

All orthodox forms of Christianity agree that a person is saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. However, there is great debate over the NATURE of saving faith. There is a kind of faith that doesn't save. Demons have this kind of faith.

Demons believe intellectually and they tremble emotionally, but they have no heart allegiance to Jesus as Lord (cf. Ja. 2:19). Demons have an intellectual belief and they even have an emotional experience, but this does not constitute saving faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God, but I would also add that only the RIGHT KIND OF FAITH is pleasing to God (cf. Heb. 11:6).

Saving faith personally embraces the Lord Jesus Christ for WHO He is and for WHAT He has done. The Person of Christ and the Work of Christ cannot be separated. A saving faith embraces the truth of Christ BOTH as personal Lord and personal Savior.

In the earthly ministry of Christ, the primary thing emphasized during the first two and a half years was WHO He was. After this extended ministry Christ asked the ultimate question to his disciples, “**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?**” (Mt. 16:13). Peter under inspiration then went on to say, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” (Mt. 16:16).

Jesus then told Peter that it was upon this “Rock” truth that He would build His Church (Mt. 16:18). It was only after this that Christ then began to show His disciples how He must go to Jerusalem and be killed (Mt. 16:21).

In the gospels, the first great emphasis is on the PERSON of Christ. Yes, both the WORK and the PERSON of Christ are found there, but in terms of development the first great emphasis is on the PERSON of Christ. Everything builds on this.

First Christ came presenting the kingdom on the condition of repentance (Mt. 4:17). True repentance involved recognizing Jesus as Messiah-God.

But as the nation of Israel rejected the Christ for WHO He is as the God-Man, the kingdom offer was then put on hold (cf. Matt. 13), and the focus then became the cross in earnest. Having established the truth of Who Christ is as Messiah-God the gospels then present the cross-work of Christ followed by His resurrection.

The all-important cross-work of Christ builds on the truth of WHO He is as the God-Man. It is WHO He is that gives His life infinite value making Him a worthy sacrifice for the sins of the whole world (Jn. 1:29).

In response to the all-important question, ***“Who do you say that I am?”*** Peter answered, ***“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*** (Matt. 16:15-16). But note that this is the EXACT question that the entire book of John serves to answer and comes to the EXACT same conclusion as Peter (John 20:30-31).

John 20:30–31 (NKJV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

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.

Thus, John’s gospel is an extended answer to the question of “WHO is Jesus?”. This is the most important issue ever addressed because it has eternal ramifications.

“Now, sirs! any kind of faith in Christ which does not change your life is the faith of devils, and will take you where devils are, but will never take you to heaven.” – **Charles Spurgeon**

The RIGHT KIND of faith personally embraces Jesus for WHO He is as Lord and God. This is exemplified in the climactic illustration of New Testament saving faith as seen in the confession of “Doubting Thomas”. Upon seeing the risen Christ, he said, “My Lord and my God!” (Jn. 20:28). This and nothing less constitutes the nature of a true saving faith because Jesus then said to Thomas, “you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (Jn. 20:29).

To truly believe on Jesus is to personally from the heart believe on Him as LORD and SAVIOR!

Romans 10:9–10 (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.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.