

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH ***(The Knowledge of the Truth – Faith Required)***

Key verse: 1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV) [God] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (emphasis mine)

Core Content of “the knowledge of the truth” as presented by the Apostle Paul.

1. The knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20).
2. The knowledge of Christ Jesus the Lord (2 Cor. 4:3-6).
3. The knowledge of Christ as Savior – the one Mediator (1 Tim. 1:15, 2:3-7).
4. The knowledge that salvation is by believing and not by works (Rom. 10:1-4, cf. Eph. 1:13).

Romans 10:2-4 (NKJV)

2 For I bear them [Israel] witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge....

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The Jews generally did not have the knowledge that God’s righteousness is attained on the basis of FAITH (cf. Phil. 3:1-9). They thought it was acquired on the basis of works by keeping the law. Therefore, they were not saved (Rom. 10:1). Justification before God is on the basis of FAITH ALONE (cf. Rom. 1:16, 5:1, 1 Tim. 1:16, 2 Tim. 3:15).

Saving faith is a matter of the heart (cf. Lk. 8:15, Rom. 10:9-10, Heb. 4:1-2, 6:4-6, 10:26-27). A key chapter on the nature of saving faith is Romans 4 with a form of the word faith/believe being found 16 times.

1. Abraham, a primary example of saving faith was justified by believing and not by works (cf. Rom. 4:1-3).
2. Works and grace are mutually exclusive (cf. Rom. 4:4).
3. Righteousness is accounted on the basis of faith apart from works (cf. Rom. 4:5).
4. Faith is not a work, but rather is in accordance with grace (cf. Rom. 4:16).

The Gospel of John was written so we might believe! John, in conclusion, tells us that his **purpose** in writing is so that the reader might **BELIEVE** and that believing one “may have life in His [Christ’s] name.” (Jn. 20:31). John writes so people will know the message concerning Christ to the end they may BELIEVE. To have life, people must believe in Christ (cf. Jn. 3:16, Acts 16:30-31).

John 3:18 (NKJV) “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1 John is a book on assurance. Appropriately, John follows up his “Gospel of Belief” with a book on assurance. In chapter five, John summarizes the testimony that God has given of His Son and then says...

1 John 5:10 (NKJV) He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

The critical issue here is **BELIEVING** (cf. 1 Jn. 5:1). People are accountable to believe the TESTIMONY of God concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Those believing have the Son and therefore have life (cf. 5:12-13).

“Election and predestination do not, however, take away man’s responsibility. Even though election and predestination are clearly taught in Scripture, man is still held accountable for his choices. Scripture never suggests that man is lost because he is not elect or has not been predestined; the emphasis of Scripture is that man is lost because he refuses to believe the gospel.” -**Paul Enns**, The Moody Handbook of Theology, p. 329

My definition of saving faith:

“Saving faith is from the heart believing in Jesus Christ alone as my personal **Savior** Who died for all my sins; and as my personal **Lord/Master**, Who is God Almighty as declared by His resurrection from the dead.”