

Saving Faith Is An Act of Worship

In recent history, there has been a debate over what has been dubbed “Lordship Salvation”. Part of the issue in communication is that people in debate tend to talk past each other. Every credible player in the discussion agrees that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

The charge is often made that “Lordship” advocates are teaching a “works salvation”. There may be brands of “Lordship Salvation” teaching that are tantamount to a “works salvation”, but properly understood, faith in Christ as Lord (recognizing Him as Lord), is not a works-oriented concept. It’s an “**obedience to the faith**” concept! (cf. Rom. 1:5, 16:26, 2 Thess. 1:8, etc.). In reality, the ISSUE is about the NATURE OF SAVING FAITH. I totally affirm that justification is by faith alone (we are saved by grace through faith -cf. Rom. 5:1, Eph. 2:8-9).

The very first thing that a person ever does to please God is to believe in Him (cf. Heb. 11:6). It’s not simply a matter of believing ABOUT Christ (cf. Lk. 8:13, 1 Cor. 15:2, Ja. 2:19), but rather a matter of believing IN or ON Him as SAVING LORD (cf. Jn. 1:12, 29, 3:15,16, 18....). That little preposition (in/on) indicates the position of commitment! It indicates ALLEGIANCE to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Perhaps the best word that defines the nature of this saving faith allegiance is **WORSHIP**.

In an evangelistic context, Jesus told a Samaritan woman that God is looking for “true worshipers” and they are those who worship “in spirit and in truth” (cf. Jn. 4:23-24). To worship means “to bow down before”, “to prostrate oneself before”, “or to fall down before”. It is to reverence a superior and acknowledge His sovereign authority over you. A heart disposition of WORSHIP towards the Lord Jesus Christ is inherently involved in the act of SAVING FAITH.

As the women met the resurrected Christ on resurrection day, Matthew 28:9 says that they, “held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.” Worship is ONLY to be attributed to God and Him ALONE (cf. Mt. 4:10, Rev. 19:10, 22:9). Clearly, Jesus is GOD as He repeatedly accepted WORSHIP.

All true believers are worshipers of Christ. In fact, worship is an essential element of a living/saving faith. In Phil. 3:3 Paul defines the true circumcision (those that truly bear the mark of a covenant relationship with God) as being those who “*worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh*”.

This is Paul's definition of saving faith! To truly be in covenant relationship with God is to be a true worshiper. True worship defines true faith. It's the very nature of saving faith!

The resurrection made a statement declaring Jesus to be the "*Son of God with power*" (cf. Rom. 1:4). All believers believe in the resurrection which is to say they acknowledge Jesus as God. And it is PERSONAL.

"Doubting Thomas" came to a NT saving faith when upon seeing the risen Christ he confessed, "*My Lord and my God!*" (Jn. 20:28). That is worship! With the mouth true believers confess from their HEART that Jesus is the risen LORD (cf. Rom. 10:9-10). It's a HEART commitment, not merely head knowledge. "Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13) which in effect is to worship Him as the resurrected Son of God.

It's the WORSHIP factor in saving faith that is behind Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 12:3 that, "no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit." Of course, anyone can mouth the words (cf. Mt. 7:21-23), but only true worshipers (true believers) say it from the HEART. True believers via the "miracle of enlightenment" see and embrace the truth of Christ as Lord God (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4-6).

One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God (cf. Phil. 2:9-11). The ultimate issue that God demands is WORSHIP. True believers in the here and now worship Jesus as God. We bow before Him in saving faith! A proper saving faith involves a disposition of the heart the Bible calls worship which indeed recognizes Christ as "Lord and God". That, my friends, is a biblical "Lordship Salvation".

To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is to fall at His feet and worship Him as the Sovereign God Who saves us. As Savior, He died for all our sins. As Lord God over all, He arose from the dead. True believers worship! It's the first thing we ever do to please God (cf. Heb. 11:6).

Instead of merely asking if people "believe" we should inquire if they are "true worshipers"! Because is only true worshipers who are true believers!