

THE LINE OF SAVING FAITH

Romans 4:5 (NKJV)

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Cain intellectually believed in God but did not have a saving faith (cf. Gen. 4). The Jews had a “zeal” for God but yet were not saved (Rom. 10:1-2). There is a “demon-like” faith that believes in God and yet is not saved (Ja. 2:19).

There is a line of SAVING FAITH that must be crossed in order to be saved. Jesus referenced this “line” when He said in John 5:24, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

There is a “LINE” we cross over from death to life and this line is saving faith!

We are Saved by the Response of Faith Alone

John wrote his gospel so we might believe and have LIFE (John 20:30-31).

John 20:31 (NKJV)

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.

Note that two times in this purpose statement John mentions the ultimate issue of **BELIEF**! No other condition is mentioned! If something else other than belief in Christ is necessary for salvation, then John the Apostle MISSED IT. His entire purpose in writing was so that we might **BELIEVE**. John doesn't even mention New Testament baptism anywhere in his Gospel. To add any other requirement to BELIEF is to contradict John the Apostle, who wrote so that we might have life on the basis of BELIEVING.

The theme of Romans is ***“The Gospel of God”***. Romans is the most methodical presentation of the Gospel found anywhere in the New

Testament. Paul begins by declaring that the Gospel “*is the power of God to salvation for everyone who **believes***” (Rom. 1:16). The rest of the book builds on and harmonizes with the truth that we are saved by faith alone (cf. 3:27-28, 4:4-5, 5:1, 9:32, 10:3-4).

In Philippians 3, Paul shares his testimony. As a Jew he had all kinds of religious “credentials”. But in saving faith he says, “*what things were gain to me, these I counted loss for Christ.*” (Phil. 3:7). He goes on to say in verse 8 that he counts all things as rubbish (literally excrement or refuse) to the end that he might gain Christ. Paul used such strong language because if you trust in anything other than Christ it will damn your soul! A saving faith rejoices in Christ Jesus and has “*no confidence in the flesh*” (cf. Phil. 3:3).

Philippians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence in the flesh**,

In Philippians 3:9, Paul says that he has no righteousness of his own, but only that which “*is through **faith** in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by **faith**”.*

We must have the RIGHT KIND of Faith

The object of our faith must be the LORD JESUS CHRIST – and Him ALONE. “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*” (Acts 16:31, cf. Acts 4:12). It’s not enough to simply believe ABOUT Jesus, we must believe ON Him. This signifies commitment. Romans 10:9-10 is clear that with the HEART one believes unto righteousness. It’s not enough to merely PROFESS Christ. Many on judgment day will say, “*Lord, Lord*”, only to have Jesus say, “*I never knew you; depart from Me*” (cf. Mt. 7:21-23).

We must believe on Jesus as our SIN-BEARER. As our Savior, He alone died for all our sins (cf. Jn. 1:29, 19:30, 1 Cor. 15:3, Heb. 1:3, 1 Pet. 2:24). Baptism is not the Savior. Church membership is not the Savior. Sacraments or good works are not the Savior. Jesus ALONE is Savior!

We must also believe in Jesus as our resurrected LORD (cf. Rom. 10:9). Lord means “God-Master”. The climactic example of saving faith in the Gospel of John is doubting Thomas. When he saw the risen Lord, he said,

“My Lord and my God!” and Jesus said that Thomas believed. This is what it means to believe. It must be PERSONAL: “My Lord and my God!”

As Savior, Christ died for all our sins. As Lord over all, He rose again the third day. This is the gospel we must believe (cf. 1 Cor. 15:3-4). The “line” of saving faith is BELIEF in Christ ALONE as Savior and Lord. And that line runs right through the HEART!