

February 24, 2015

Romans 1:3-4 (NASB), ***“concerning His Son, who was born of a descendent of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.”***

Recently I had a discussion with a friend of mine about the essential nature of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Towards the end of our discussion she asked me in relation to another religion if I believed that Christianity was the only way to God. My simple and succinct answer was “yes.” In our pluralistic culture we have bought into the assumption that all religions are the same. In fact one of the statements that was made in the above mentioned exchange was along the lines of “it doesn’t matter what one believes, all religions are the same, we just have to choose one.” But it does matter and it matters greatly.

When one has an inaccurate view of Christ and one sees Him as just one of many religious figures then it is very easy to fall into the falsehood of believing that it’s all just the same. As we look here at Romans 1:3-4 though we see that Christ is not just one of many He is God in human flesh.

Romans 1:3 says that Christ ***“was born of a descendent of David according to the flesh.”*** Jesus Christ was human; He was not a Spirit who was in the form of man and He was fully a man. He was also ***“a descendent of David”*** in that both Mary and Joseph were descendants of David (Luke 3:23, 31; Matt. 1:6, 16; Luke 1:27). The second person of the Trinity was born into a human family and shared human life with all other humanity and He then identified Himself with fallen mankind and yet He lived completely without sin. Therefore He was our perfect High Priest it tells us in Hebrews 4:15. There was only one way He could truly be “the way and the truth and life” and that was if He was a man. If He was just a spirit then that completely nullifies the cross.

But Jesus wasn’t just a man He was also God. In verse 4 it says that He ***“was declared the Son of God.”*** Jesus was declared God’s Son when He was supernaturally conceived in Mary and was then ***“born a descendent of David according to the flesh.”*** The power of the cross lies in the fact that Christ was completely sinless, He was the perfect sacrifice and that was only possible because He was God and therefore perfect.

It then says in verse 4 that ***“with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness...”*** This is the most conclusive and profound evidence of Jesus’ divinity. He demonstrated His supreme power through the resurrection and therefore His ability and power to conquer death. That power only belongs to the Giver of Life which is God. This power is accomplished through the Holy Spirit which enabled Him not only to rise from the dead but perform all of His miracles while on earth.

Paul ends verse 4 with the words ***“Jesus Christ our Lord.”*** Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. Jesus Christ defeated sin and death through His death on the cross and His resurrection and He is the only way to salvation. What you believe about Jesus Christ matters. He was not just a man who was a great teacher or the leader of a political movement. He is not just a guy with

some neat words that might help you in life today. Jesus Christ is God and when You realize that and accept that foundational truth there is nothing else you can do other than repent of Your sins and believe in Him.