

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: John 8:24.

"I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you shall die in your sins."

- B. The Bible is very specific when it talks about what to believe in and what not to believe in. It is a subject not to be taken lightly. Understanding what the Bible says about belief is important.
- C. There are many false teachers in the world, asking us to believe in them and what they teach. May we search the Scriptures to know what is right and what to believe in.
- D. Tonight's lesson deals with faith or belief in 4 areas:
 - 1. Commanded belief.
 - 2. Beginning belief.
 - 3. Obedience belief.
 - 4. Xian belief.

II. COMMANDED BELIEF.

- A. In this lesson, I will be using the terms 'belief' and 'faith' equally and interchangeably.
- B. We must believe in God to be faithful to Him. And we have a purpose in our belief because of rewards (Heb. 11:6).

*And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

- C. We must teach belief or faith when instructing others on how to be saved and become a Xian. Belief is a prerequisite to baptism into X (Mk. 16:15,16).
And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. [16] "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
- D. We must be sure that when we believe and what we ask others to believe is what God says and not the teachings of man (1Jn. 4:1).
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

III. BEGINNING BELIEF.

- A. There are other religions boasting of ways to heaven other than through JC. But this cannot be according to the Bible (Ac. 4:12; Jn. 3:16).

(Ac 4:12) "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

(Jn 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

- B. We must not only believe in X as a man who lived on the earth but also in His teachings and miracles (Jn. 20:29-31).

Jesus said^ to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." [30] Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

- C. We must also believe in the Word of God, the Bible as our guide to heaven. Children's Sunday school literature is usually about the OT stories and people. These are designed to build faith in God/Bible.
- D. The Word of God is actually more powerful than miracles (Lk. 16:29-31).

"But Abraham said^, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' [30] "But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' [31] "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

IV. OBEDIENCE BELIEF.

- A. When the Bible speaks of believing (having faith) it is a belief that causes us to act. Biblical faith is more than an intellectual acknowledgement, but a deep conviction about how to live life (Jn. 3:36).

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

- B. In every case of conversion in the NT belief in God and JC was required (Ac. 16:31).
And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."
- C. Belief preceded confession of Jesus as Lord (Ac. 8:37; NASB).
<And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
- D. Belief produces a repentance of past sins (Ac. 2:36,37).
(Ac 2:26) 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL ABIDE IN HOPE;
(Ac 2:37) Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"
- E. To just acknowledge JC as the Son of God and not to act on this belief is to be on "the level with the devil," for they believe and tremble (Jas. 2:19).
You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

V. CHRISTIAN BELIEF.

- A. Xian belief, that which is called faith, is the foundation of the Xian life. Our faith must be shown by works (Jas. 2:24,26; Mt. 5:16).
(Mt 5:16) "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
(Jas 2:24) You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.
(Jas 2:26) For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- B. Our deep and abiding faith in God and all of His blessings and promises will cause us to share our faith with others (2Cor. 4:13).
But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore also we speak;
- C. Our Xian faith (belief) will sustain us until death (2Tim. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
(2Tim 1:12) For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
(Rev 2:10) 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Tonight, we have looked at commanded belief, beginning belief, obedience belief, and Xian belief.
- B. We are to be people of faith, who walk by faith and not by sight (2Cor. 5:7).
for we walk by faith, not by sight--
- C. Act upon your faith and be saved tonight.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.