

21st CENTURY TRUTHS

Volume 1

(*Need for Belief*)

Issue 4

IN WHAT CAN WE BELIEVE?

In our society, we have become a people that seems to have nothing in which we can put our trust and belief. We have little, if any, belief in the words of a politician. An oath is often only something we say, not what we will uphold. With the high divorce rate, can we believe in the marital vows of “till death do you part”? We also must have little confidence in the words and agreements between parties in our business relationships. While working at a law firm, I have seen contracts in excess of 100 pages. Everything must be documented as the parties need to know how to proceed “when” the other person breaks their word “and they will break their word.” Is there nothing in which we can truly believe?

The answer to this question is YES. The bible has revealed unto us “...all things which pertain unto life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3). We are also told that only through the Word of God we will be “... equipped unto every good work.” (II Timothy 3:17). Therefore, if we know the Word has given us all things we need to be godly, in what must we believe to become a follower of Christ?

In Acts 8:37, we find Phillip ask the eunuch if he believed. The eunuch’s response is the same response we must have today in that he said “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” The belief in the Lord Jesus Christ was also expressed by those desiring to become followers of Christ in Acts 13:37-39 and Acts 16:31-32. By these examples we can see the importance of belief in becoming a Christian. Christ also stated how

essential belief is determining our salvation. In Mark 16:16, He stated “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” There is NO hope for a person who refuses to obey God’s commands. Eternal damnation awaits such a one.

But is this belief a simple “Yea, yea, I believe....Whatever.” I think not. We are instructed to believe with the heart. “But without faith it is impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that *he* is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). It is by taking a true belief of Christ and His word into our heart which will produce the desire necessary to be faithful to His commands as we diligently seek Him.

Like 12:34 states that “where our treasure is there will our heart be also.” The converse of this is also true, where our heart is there will be our treasure. Are you building your treasure by following after Christ? Do you believe that Christ is the son of God? Are you obeying the commands and examples given in the scriptures? If you would like any assistance in building a belief through a study of His word, we would warmly welcome you to attend one of our assemblies or contact us for further information.

Randy M. Meyer

DOES BELIEF ALONE SAVE?

Many professing to be a Christian feel they know or can quote John 3:16. Its seems this is one of the most well known of all scriptures. You even see posters at sporting events simply printed “John 3:16”. However, most do not actually quote this passage but rather mis-quote such.

John 3:16 states “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.*” There are those which want to exchange the correctly translated (from original Greek manuscripts) “...should not perish...” for the more personally acceptable but not accurately translated “...shall not perish...” Many claim there is no difference in these terms. However, I suggest that there is a GREAT deal of difference. In addition, there is a HUGE biblical problem with such blatant alteration of the scriptures. Not just because these terms have entirely different meanings but that its even viewed acceptable by some to alter the Holy Word of God to suit their own desires.

Consider for a moment the very simplistic statement, “If you believe what the police say about safety/security measures, your home shall not be burglar-

ized.” By such a single statement, all you must do to keep a thief out of your home is to believe in safety. Nothing more. Now consider “If you believe what the police say about safety/security, your home should not be burglarized.” Why “should” it be safe from intruders? Because your belief will cause you to do all the police say to be safe/secure. You will lock your doors/windows (because the police said you should). You install motion lights outside, timer lights inside, join neighborhood watch, etc. (because the police separately advised and instructed you to take these measures to be safe/secure). In short, your belief causes you to accept what such authority states on the subject and you act accordingly.

Why then, when it comes to spiritual matters, is this a difficult concept? Why, in John 3:16, do some think that “should” and “shall” are synonymous terms but do not in their daily lives? Simple answer, its easier... “shall” requires NO effort on your part.

Now lets look to the question “Does Belief Alone Save?” Most in the denominational world would answer “Yes”, even though the Bible, which they claim to follow, states otherwise.

(Continued on the following page)

“*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*” James 2:19 (KJV)

1st Century Truths for the 21st Century

21st CENTURY TRUTHS

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DOES BELIEF ALONE SAVE?

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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (NOTE it is possible to believe and still NOT be saved)

In Acts 8:1 & 9:1, we find the apostle Paul severely persecuting the Lord's church. Did he do so because he held no religious belief? On the contrary, he had great belief and further states in Acts 23:1 that he had lived before God "in all good conscience". (Also see Acts 23:6, Acts 26:1-11, and Phil. 3:5-6). Did his belief make him or his actions right with God and therefore saved? NO...His beliefs which he held prior to his conversion were wrong. He showed a true belief in God's commands when he accepted and obeyed such.

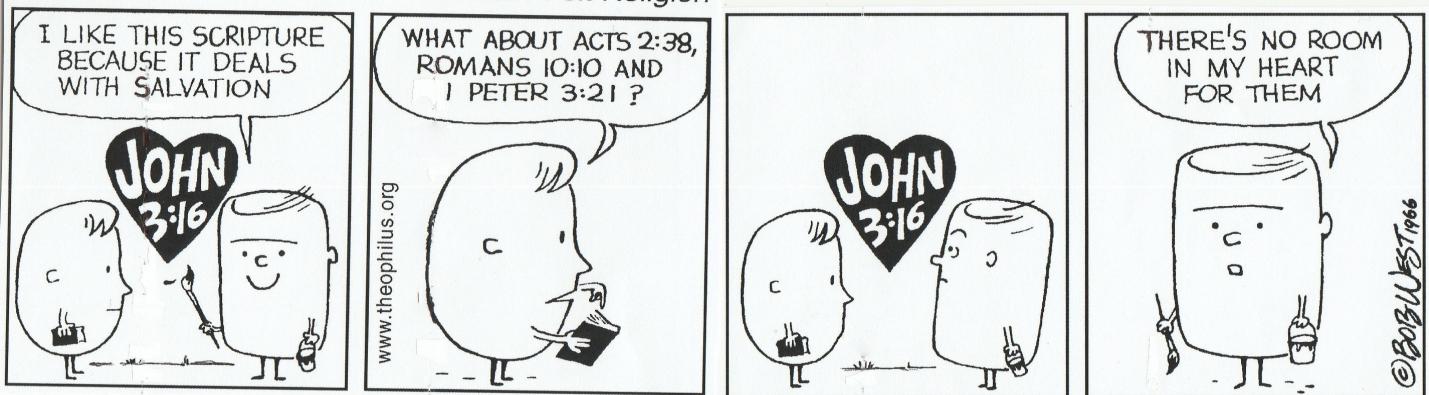
In Acts 26:27-28, King Agrippa believed but failed to act on such belief and therefore not a Christian. James also states "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **the devils also believe, and tremble**" (James 2:19). But are they saved... NO. How could those in the 1st

century, as well as many today, believe and not be saved? Because they fail to act on their belief and obey what is required. True spiritual belief demands our obedience to all His commands. Mark 16:16 states "...he that believeth not shall be damned." Why? If you do not believe, you will not obey.

Have you truly believed and therefore obeyed Christ's commands to be saved? If not, why not today? Please contact us or attend any of our services to discuss putting your belief into an obedient practice.

Randy M. Meyer

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The church meets at its *new* location 1/2 mile east of intersection of Gordon Drive and Stone Avenue (across from Western Iowa Tech.) at 4800 Stone Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa. You are invited to visit any of our Bible Studies or worship assemblies. For information, you may write the address listed, email, or call (712) 274-1000.

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