

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

[www.nccdighton.org](http://www.nccdighton.org)

9/18/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Believing - Part 2

### **Charles Spurgeon on Salvation**

*Christ Jesus did not come in order that you might continue in sin and escape the penalty of it; he did not come to prevent the disease being mortal, but to take the disease itself away.*

### **Charles Spurgeon on Salvation**

*The only way in which we can be delivered from the mastery of Satan is by becoming subject to the mastery of Christ. . . . If it were possible for sin to be forgiven, and yet for the sinner to live just as he lived before, he would not really be saved.*

### **The "Rock of Offense"**

Jesus Christ, "the Rock", is only offensive to those who reject Him. To the rest, He is Lord and Savior. If a believer speaks of Him and others are offended, the believer ought not shrink away, or seek approval some other way, for he does not have the right to misrepresent the sovereign Lord.

### **Mental Gymnastics**

In order to dismiss the plain words of Jesus Christ, one must concoct a system of theology that multiplies exponentially in complexity as it attempts to make things "fit". The flip side is godliness, "simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (2Co 11:3).

### **Bad Fruit**

At the end of every errant theological path is incongruity. At the end of every attempt to make the Gospel "fit" into man's estimation of it, there exists an abyss.

### **A "different gospel"**

The flesh's basic tendency is to reject authority. Since the Gospel includes the lordship of Jesus Christ, the flesh will reject Him as Lord but "keep" Him as Savior, since the latter portion is perceived as not requiring basic submission. The result is a "divided Jesus" and therefore a perverted gospel.

### **An Old, Effective Trick...**

Stake a claim to something FIRST and the world, in its laziness, will accept it as

authentic. Satan loves to "steal" godly words, such as grace.

### **Understand God's Grace**

- Scriptural Grace: "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Mt 7:14).
- Today's false "grace": the gate is big (many are saved), but the way is narrow (only a few saved will submit to the Lord)

### **The Perverted "grace gospel"**

A false gospel is no different than the sleezeball who tells his girlfriend that he "loves her" so that he can sleep with her! If she "believes" him, she might fall prey to his devices and be defiled.

### **The Perverted "grace gospel"**

People LOVE an emasculated god because they can, in their sinful natures, DOMINATE him. That is sin's "desire [teshuqa]"..."crouching at the door" (Gen 4:7)! Sin and grace are "enemies". Sinful man cannot accept ALL of God's grace without becoming completely dependent and subordinate to the Lord.

### **Charles Spurgeon on Salvation**

*Such men may talk what they will about justification by faith, and salvation by grace, but they are rebels at heart, they have not on the wedding dress any more than the self-righteous, whom they so eagerly condemn. The fact is, if we wish for the blessings of grace, we must in our hearts submit to the rules of grace without picking and choosing.*

### **Charles Spurgeon on Salvation**

*A man who is really saved by grace does not need to be told that he is under solemn obligations to serve Christ; the new life within him tells him that. Instead of regarding it as a burden, he gladly surrenders himself-body, soul, and spirit, to the Lord who has redeemed him, reckoning this to be his reasonable service.*

### **Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior**

If you believe that God, by grace, will make you saved, then you must also believe that God, by grace, will make you subordinate to Christ. Therefore, be careful what you believe, for not all believing is the same, or godly!

*"The human heart has so many recesses for vanity, so many lurking places for falsehood, is so shrouded by fraud and hypocrisy, that it often deceives itself."*

- John Calvin on human beliefs as relating to true saving faith

### **"believe"**

from pisteuo - believe, have faith in, trust in; pass: I am entrusted with; in context, everyone believes something and everyone has faith in something (whether it's godly is another issue altogether!)

### **Flawed Interpretation**

Word- and phrase-association is NOT a fail-proof method of interpreting scripture. In fact, many have gone astray by assuming words and phrases always mean the same thing, regardless of context.

### **Not All Believing Is the Same**

Nowhere in the Bible, does it state that all believing is godly. In fact, the Bible depicts man's heart as utterly deceitful.

### **It Matters What You Believe**

Jesus stated that those who believed in Him (true "believers") would walk in the Light. (Jn 8:12; 1Jn 1:6-7)

### **"judge according to the flesh"**

Jesus stated the root of the Pharisees' belief - the flesh. The flesh cannot be godly (1Co 2:14 - "...spiritually appraised...") - in fact, it cannot even appraise its own depravity...it doesn't suppose it's actually depraved, even.

### **The Pharisees' Belief**

The Pharisees certainly believed in something, and it was based on the same word (the same Law) that Jesus based His personal belief on. While the vehicle for true faith, the Word, was the same, not all were "on the train" towards salvation.

### **"unless you believe [pisteuo] that I am He"**

Jesus made the absolute distinction that "belief" must be in His person ("that I am He"). He wasn't refuting knowledge of scripture, He was explaining the chasm between knowing OF Him and actually KNOWING Him.

### **Believing In the Bible**

Just because the word "believe" (or its derivatives) shows up in scripture does not mean all "believing" is the same! To the contrary, scripture contextualizes different beliefs, of which two categories arise: belief in Jesus Christ, or some other belief (unbelief in Him - eg: the facts or His offices only).

### **Flawed Interpretation**

Word- and phrase-association is NOT a fail-proof method of interpreting scripture. In fact, many have gone astray by assuming words and phrases always mean the same thing, regardless of context.

### **Jn 8:30 ff**

The greater context of Jesus Christ's own thoughts about the heart of man regarding his ability to believe (Jn 2:23-24) implies that we must press on in this passage for additional, qualifying/clarifying context!

### **Evidence: Freedom Through Persistence**

Jesus stated that a true believer in Christ would "continue in [His] word" and be set free!

### **"do the deeds of Abraham" - Jn 8:39**

What the Pharisees didn't comprehend was that Abraham believed in Jesus Christ (the Messiah of the OT - Jn 5:39; 8:56) and therefore He did good deeds, as fruit of God-given faith (Ro 4:3-5).

### **Believing Implies Hearing**

Mt 13:9 "He who has ears, let him hear." It's impossible to believe something that results in godly faith if you can't first "hear" it!

### **Not All Believing Is the Same**

Nowhere in the Bible, does it state that all believing is godly. In fact, the Bible depicts man's heart as utterly deceitful.

**Mt 13:20-21**

*"The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away."*

**"in a similar way" - Mk 4:16**

Jesus implies that this second class of people fall into the same category as the first, namely, unconverted unbelievers (even though, for a time, they "believed for a while", as Luke described it).

**The Parable of the Soils**

What scripture tells us is that if a person has true faith, as a result of godly belief in Jesus Christ, they will bear evidence of that result (30, 60, 100-fold). (eg: Lk 8:14)

**Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior**

If you believe that God, by grace, will make you saved, then you must also believe that God, by grace, will make you subordinate to Christ. Therefore, be careful what you believe, for not all believing is the same, or godly!

**Believing Implies Hearing**

Mt 13:9 "He who has ears, let him hear." It's impossible to believe something that results in godly faith if you can't first "hear" it!

**Mt 13:23**

*"And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."*

**Mk 4:20**

*"And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."*

**Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

*True faith, of which we speak, cannot be manufactured by our own thoughts, for it is solely a work of God in us, without any assistance on our part.*

**Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

*Whoever has not this faith talks but vainly about faith and works, and does not himself know what he says or whither it tends. He juggles with lies and applies the Scriptures where they speak of faith and works to his own dreams and false thoughts, which is purely a human work, whereas the Scriptures attribute both faith and good works not to ourselves, but to God alone.*

**Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

*Is not this a perverted and blind people? They teach we cannot do a good deed of ourselves, and then in their presumption go to work and arrogate to themselves the highest of all the works of God, namely faith, to manufacture it themselves out of their own perverted thoughts.*

**Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

*God gives no one His grace that it may remain inactive and accomplish nothing good, but in order that it may bear interest, and by being publicly known and proved externally, draw every one to God, as Christ says: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).*

**Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

*This is what James means when he says in his Epistle: "Faith without works is dead" (2:26). That is, as the works do not follow, it is a sure sign that there is no faith there; but only an empty thought and dream, which they falsely call faith.*