

North Christian Church -

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9/20/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Believing - Part 3

Charles Spurgeon on Salvation

There are some who seem willing to accept Christ as Saviour who will not receive him as Lord. They will not often state the case quite as plainly as that; but, as actions speak more plainly than words, that is what their conduct practically says.

Charles Spurgeon on Salvation

How sad it is that some talk about their faith in Christ, yet their faith is not proved by their works! Some even speak as if they understood what we mean by the covenant of grace; yet, alas! there is no good evidence of grace in their lives, but very clear proof of sin (not grace) abounding.

Charles Spurgeon on Salvation

I cannot conceive it possible for anyone truly to receive Christ as Saviour and yet not to receive him as Lord. One of the first instincts of a redeemed soul is to fall at the feet of the Saviour, and gratefully and adoringly to cry, "Blessed Master, bought with thy precious blood, I own that I am thine,-thine only, thine wholly, thine for ever. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

Charles Spurgeon on Salvation

It is not possible for us to accept Christ as our Saviour unless he also becomes our King, for a very large part of salvation consists in our being saved from sin's dominion over us, and:

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 Wonderful Results of Saving Faith

We will all sin, but the heart of a believer is seen in his repentant attitude, and his overall desire for the things of God. The same apostle Paul who judged the "so-called brother" in 1Cor 5 is the same man who struggled with his own sin in Romans 7. But Paul's genuine faith in the Lord is revealed in his DESIRE to do the

things of God, even though he failed at times.

The Wonderful Results of Saving Faith

Sin is not something the true believer can rest in, without his conscience being affected. If he can rest in sin, and even boast in it, it's a sign that he may have the old heart, not a new heart from Christ.

The Wonderful Results of Saving Faith

The salvation of a person is in question if he continually lives in sin without a clash of conscience, see 1Co 5, 1 John, and James. In fact, John said the difference between believer and unbeliever was "obvious" in 1Jo 3.

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.

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.

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)

A "different gospel"

Today's "Christian evangelist" tells everyone that God loves them so much that He'll forgo His own integrity and save them without submitting them to Jesus Christ as Lord.

Jesus is Lord

Without repentance, people won't arrive at the faith necessary for salvation. They will just have a half-hearted acceptance of Jesus as Savior, just in case.

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 Grace

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!

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.

"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).

Believing In Real Life

Just like we shouldn't hang on a phrase in the Bible as always meaning the same thing, we shouldn't hang on a person's words equaling salvation in their heart, just because we hear them say a certain phrase, such as "I believe".

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).

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!

Regarding Luke 8:15

These people are not playing a religious game, and are not hedging their bets just in case, but they have humbled themselves before Jesus as their Lord and Savior.