

North Christian Church -

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9/22/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Believing - Part 4

A Matter of Trust

Why won't some people that believe that parachutes work actually jump out of a plane??? Answer: Trust. A person can believe something to be true, possibly even for others, but still not trust in it for their own salvation.

A Matter of Trust

In terms of saving faith, indecision regarding Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the same as the decision NOT to trust in Him.

Evangelism 101

The question we ought to be asking people is "What do you believe in?" not merely "Do you believe?". Most professing Christians will answer "yes" to the second question; however, they are confused/misinformed/willfully rebellious regarding Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior.

The Gate and the Way

These are depicted by Jesus as two different elements of saving faith. Both are narrow, neither is wide. Today's so-called "grace gospel" falsely portrays the gate as wide and the way as narrow. This is satanic.

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)

Misdirection

Satan has done a masterful job of sowing misdirection, even from pulpits, resulting in folks "asking the wrong questions!" The question we ought to be asking folks is "WHAT do you believe?", not "DO you believe?" The focus of contemporary Christianity is WRONG!!!

The Narrow Gate/Way

True believing in Jesus Christ carries with it trust in Him, as Lord and Savior. That trust never leaves a saved person, which is why, under the most extreme

temptation, He has never lost one.

The Wide Gate and Broad Way

It's possible to "believe" in Jesus, His good name, His works, His resurrection, etc., and NOT be saved, for one reason - if that person has NOT accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There's a trust issue, based on humility, a "counting the cost" that precedes saving faith.

Efficacious Grace

Grace is perfect. It never fails. It saves and sanctifies. It saves and subjects. It makes new. It changes. Its recipients bear fruit, they persist, they endure, they overcome, they submit and obey. "Efficacious" means "effective; able to produce a desired result".

The Wide Gate and Broad Way

It's possible to say, "Jesus is the Son of God"...or "Jesus is Savior"...or even "Jesus is Lord"...and NOT be saved because a human heart can, after believing these things to be true, STILL not accept/trust Him as personal Lord & Savior - that heart may still say, "Yes, these things are true, but He is not MY Lord & Savior".

Conclusion

Why has the concept of "believing" become "difficult"? - it's because people have perverted the concept of grace! When God presents His Son, He presents all of Him. When He gives His Son, He gives all of Him. This is the fullness of grace. (Jn 1:16-17)

"grace upon grace"

means that God showers believers with grace; saving them implies saving them FROM sin ("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." - Spurgeon).

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.

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 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 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.

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).