

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

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

9/25/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Believing - Part 5

**Read your Bibles!**

**The Difference Between "Slaves" and "Friends"**

The immediate difference is that a slave simply does as he is told, without any implied explanation. A friend receives intimate details as to "why" a person is doing what they are. The difference is intimacy. Jesus made His disciples His friends.

**1Ti 6:15b-16**

*He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*

**"even us, whom He also called"**

This is a reference to "friends" of Jesus Christ (ala Jn 15:15). The Lord "makes known" certain intimate details about His own heart to those in His family (Ro 9:23-24).

**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.

**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.

**"even us, whom He also called"**

This is a reference to "friends" of Jesus Christ (ala Jn 15:15). The Lord "makes known" certain intimate details about His own heart to those in His family (Ro 9:23-24).

**Read your Bibles!**

**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.

### **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).

### **"Simony" - Wikipedia**

*The act of selling church offices and roles; the term also extends to other forms of trafficking for money in "spiritual things". The practice is named after Simon Magus (Ac 8:9-24).*

### **Simon's "belief" / Peter's Rebuke**

- "May your silver perish with you" - no believer will ever perish (Jn 3:16)
- "You have no part or portion in this matter" - you're a phony
- "your heart is not right before God" - you have an unbeliever's heart
- "you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity" - this is never true of a believer

### **Jn 5:39**

*"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me."*

### **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 God's eyes, 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 "what" is in question).

### **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.

### **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)