

North Christian Church -

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9/27/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Believing - A Review

Your Personal Enterprise

The Lord has made it personal, both by sharing the details of the Father's plan, and by calling us out to our own personal service of Him and His people. Joh 15:14-16

Eph 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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.

He calls us friends

Out of His sovereign grace, God has chosen to give intimate details about why He does the things He does, although not always in great detail in our individual situations (otherwise there would be no need for faith, which brings Him glory in front of the angels).

"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).

Keep reading your Bibles!

Could it be that God only reveals Himself to His friends, and if you are a true friend of God, you will keep pursuing Him?

Prov 8:17

"I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

Prov 17:17

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

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.

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!!!

Jesus as Lord

2Co 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

Acts 16:31, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."*

"Who do you say I am?"

Many people don't know who Jesus really is, and finding out WHAT others believe about Him might just open the door to their hearts. Mat 16:15

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.

The Wide Gate and Broad Way

It's a mental assent vs. trusting in the Lord.

It's knowing facts vs. submitting to the Lord.

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".

Efficacious Grace

God will never impart saving faith to a person that believes in a different Jesus, only to someone who believes in His Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords...the Alpha and the Omega...the One that overcame death itself.

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

"Believing"

A person can believe something is true about Jesus, but still not trust in Christ for their own eternal life.

"Believing"

True believing, or trust in Christ, results in a heart change, and that results in a life change, because it's by the power and effectiveness of the grace of God in the believer's life. These divinely good results are inevitable.