

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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“Who Do You Believe?”

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1: 14 & 15)

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1: 12 & 13)

Who do you believe? Dear reader, the question that I pose to you today, is of the utmost importance to your soul. Every professing Christian would do well to ask themselves, “who do I believe?” When it comes down to the weightier issues of life and death, heaven or hell, whoever we have chosen to believe will determine our eternal destination.

Each of us has chosen, either consciously or subconsciously, to believe another human being, themselves, or God. My own personal experience is that most Christians (not all, but most) believe a mixture of what man has taught them, and their own beliefs (the dictates of their own heart – “self”). Rare indeed, is the one who actually believes God. Sadly, most of us are quite confident that we are “right” in what we believe; some will admit that they may be “off” or “wrong” concerning a few “insignificant” issues, but they are not really important! Religious pride is indeed the leaven of death, and the mark of a fool!

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” (Proverbs 14:12)

*“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.”
(Proverbs 12:15)*

Today, I am writing you to challenge you to do a “spiritual self examination” in an effort to honestly determine who you believe. I would also hope my words would encourage you to choose God -----our Father ----- as the “only One” whom you will believe, if you have not already done so. There is a great separation now taking place between the “wheat and the tares” (Matthew 13:30); the “wheat” being the fruit of the Word of God, and the “tares” being the fruit of the flesh. Make no mistake about it ----- there will be no “mixture” of the Word and man’s flesh at the marriage supper of the Lamb. If one is

found not clothed in the Word of God, he or she will be declared as “unfit” and will be cast out into outer darkness. I would encourage you to read our Lord’s own words concerning this truth in Matthew 22: 1 – 14.

Before I continue, I would like to share the definition of the English word “believe” that we find in our Bibles. A great number of Christians today count themselves as being saved, because they “believe in Jesus”, forgetting that even the demons believe in Jesus (James 2:19). Are the demons saved? Of course not! Think about it, dear reader; if we believe in Jesus and the demons of hell believe in Jesus, and they are doomed, but we are saved (if we are), what makes us different? The answer is in the definition of the Greek word “pisteuo” (pist-yoo-oh) strong’s #4100. “Pisteuo” is translated “believe” in the English language, and is used in John 3:16, which many of us consider to be one of the foundational blocks for salvation. The word “pisteuo” (believe) is the verb form of “pistis”, and is defined as follows:

“to trust in, have faith in, be fully convinced of, acknowledge, rely on. It expresses reliance upon and a personal trust that produces obedience. It includes submission and a positive confession of the lordship of Jesus.”

In light of this definition, I ask again: who do you believe? Be honest; who do you believe? Whose word are you staking eternity on? I know you believe in Jesus, but I ask you, “do you believe Him”? Believing “in” Jesus, and “believing Jesus”, are two entirely different things; one having to do with “intellect”, and the other “obedience”. The demons of hell believe in Jesus, but do not obey Jesus; as a result, they are condemned. When we not only believe in Jesus, but also acknowledge that He is Lord over us, and have a love for His word, and an overwhelming desire to obey Him ----- we are saved! It is as simple as that; it all comes down to who we believe, and obey.

The “form of Christianity” (2 Timothy 3:5) that makes up the vast majority of the modern-day church does not believe God, as it relates to the Word of God. The Word of God (Holy Bible) is either what it says it is ----- God’s very own words ----- or it is not. It is either truth or it is a lie. It is either dead or it is alive. To say that I believe God, and at the same time I refuse to believe God’s word from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, would be the same as saying that I do not believe that the Holy Bible (the written Logos), is God’s word; therefore, I refuse to believe it. As absurd as that might seem to some, that is exactly what most Christians are saying today, as evidenced by their blatant disobedience and irreverent attitude toward God’s word; not to mention, a complete absence of any fear of God.

“An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: there is no fear of God before His eyes.” (Psalm 36:1)

“But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you?” (Psalm 50: 16 & 17)

The fact that God’s word declares that He defines the “wicked” as those who do not fear Him, and who do not believe His word, should cause all professing Christians to “tremble” (Isaiah 66:2b). Our individual response to this Biblical truth answers the question: Do you believe God, yourself, or someone else?

When the relationship between God and man began, it began in the Garden, where God gave man His word and expected him to obey it. Sadly, man followed his own human reasoning:

“Seeing that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” (Genesis 3:6)

Today, we continue to follow in Adam’s footsteps; turning a deaf ear to the Word of God; believing that God’s grace will excuse our rebellion against Him, we continue to claim our inheritance in His Kingdom, and fully expect His continued blessings; all the while “death”, as expressed by spiritual darkness ----- sickness and disease ----- confusion ----- division and divorce ----- poverty ----- all continue to spread throughout the camp. The “famine” has reached a pandemic level among the “many” who populate the pew. The Word declares:

*“Behold, the days are coming”, says the Lord God, “That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, Seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it.” (Amos 8: 11 & 12) *Emphasis Added**

*“God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
(2 Thessalonians 2:11 & 12)*

As it was written ----- so it is!

Again, dear reader, I ask you before God ----- “Who do you believe?” Are you one of the “few” who has a love for Truth, as expressed in God’s Word? Are you? I press these questions upon you today because they are vital to your spiritual well being.

*“For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people;”
(Isaiah 60:2a)*

“If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Matthew 6:23)

Jesus Christ is the “Light” of the “Word”, Christ – Word – Light –are one. Take away the Word, and you take away the Light. Take away the Light and all you have is a very “great darkness”, that in reality, appears to be light (2 Corinthians 11: 14 & 15) but it reeks of the smell of death. So great is this false light, and false righteousness, that its deceptive lure ensnares the “many” who are worldly of heart, and threatens even the “elect” of those professing Christ (Matthew 24:4, 11 & 24).

Make no mistake about it, dear reader; this day, you have been warned! Fail to eat the Word of God (John 6:53) and you have no Life in you, nor do you have Light in you. Fail to embrace God’s word and you are promised death!

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119: 105)

“For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light;” (Proverbs 6:23)

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4)

“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” (John 12:36)

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:20)

“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” (John 3: 19-21)

In Luke chapter eighteen, verse eight, Jesus spoke of His return to earth and indicated that when He did return, that “faith” would be in short supply among His people; He said, “When the Son of man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

In second Thessalonians, chapter two verse three, Paul writes: “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day (the Lord’s return) will not come unless the “falling away” comes first”. In Paul’s first letter to Timothy, he states that the Holy Spirit “expressly” says that in latter times there would be a departure from the faith and a following of deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons (see chapter 4, verse 1).

In Hebrews chapter two, verse six, it is written: “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” In Romans chapter ten, verse seventeen, Paul declares that: “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” I declare, that faith apart from the Word of God is not faith at all; rather, it is nothing more than a manifestation of a spirit of deception. Faith ----- Saving Faith ----- is impossible apart from the Word of God. As it is written:

“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

(1Thessalonians 2:13) Emphasis Added

“Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.” (James 1:18) Emphasis Added

“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever.” (1 Peter 1:23) Emphasis Added

The word of God declares that the Bride of Christ will be without spot or wrinkle, holy and “without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). One might ask, how will we be so “cleansed of heart” as to be counted among the “holy”? Here is the answer ----- It is written:

“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify her with the washing of water by the word.” (Ephesians 5:25 & 26)

Is it any wonder, that the church of professing believers is in the condition that she is in; so divided, so sick and diseased, so unloving, so in debt, so lustful, so coveting and so worldly? Is it any wonder that we have so little, if any, fear of God, and so many idols within our ranks? How could it be otherwise, with a people who do not believe God? Just as it is written, so it is!

I close by reminding you that “legalism”, of which I am regularly and falsely charged by the religious ones, is nothing more than obedience to the law of God, from an unconverted heart, expecting something in return. However, obedience to the law (word) of God, from a heart that loves God, and above all things, desires to obey Him -----a heart that cannot separate God from His word, regardless of what any man, priest or prophet might say ----- that obedience is the very reflection of the likeness and image of Jesus Christ, whose one desire was to obey the word of His Father (John 12: 49 & 50). For that man, “believing God” and obeying the Word, has it counted unto him as “righteousness” (Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:21 & 22).

Never forget, Grace will cover our imperfections, but not our rebellion against “what is written”, by God.

“And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him ----- The word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.” (John 12: 47 & 48)

Now that we have heard, dare we not believe God?

Your brother,

Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)