

Back To Basics

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SPECIAL ISSUE: WHY I BELIEVE

Johnie Edwards

It might just surprise us if we really knew the people who have no idea what they believe and those who do believe but do not know why they believe it! It is the purpose of this special issue to call to our attention some basics in regards to, “Why I Believe.”

1) THINGS MOST SURELY BELIEVED.

Luke records, “Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us” (Lk. 1:1). There was a time when the Lord’s people said, “The Lord said it and I believe it.” A failure to teach on the basics has led a lot of folks to question about everything the Lord has said.

2) DELIVERED TEACHINGS. Luke further stated that the “things which are most surely believed among us,” have been “delivered” (Lk. 1:2). It’s like the Hebrew apostle stated, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Heb. 2:3).

3) EYEWITNESSES. It’s hard not to believe reliable eyewitnesses. Luke has in-

formed us that the things “delivered unto us,” were by “eyewitnesses” (Lk. 1:2). As the words of eyewitnesses in a court of law are of great value, how much more are eyewitnesses of the Lord to cause us to believe. Acts 1:8 proclaims that the apostles of Christ were “witnesses” of the Lord (Acts 1:8).

4) CERTIFIED TRUTHS. Certified documents are recognized as true and faithful. The things we are called upon to believe have been divinely certified! Paul penned, “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by revelation of Jesus Christ” (Gal. 1:11-12).

5) CAN BE READ AND BELIEVED. Paul said that “whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge...” (Eph. 3:4). In fact, the recorded things Jesus did have been “written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:30-31). Please take the time to read these basic Bible truths to increase your faith in the word of God. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).

THERE IS A GOD

Johnie Paul Edwards

The Bible declares that one would have to be a fool to not believe there is a God. “The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God” (Ps. 14:1). Here are some basic reasons why I believe there is a God:

1) **THE BIBLE SAYS THERE IS A GOD.** If one believes the Bible, and he only reads the first verse of the Bible, he has to believe there is a God. Moses wrote, “In the beginning *God* created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). Perhaps some say they do not believe there is a God because they really do not believe what the Bible has to say.

2) **THE HEAVENS AND FIRMAMENT DECLARE THERE IS A GOD.** Ever look up? Ever look around you and do any observing? The Psalmist penned, “The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handiwork” (Ps. 19:1). Take time to look at a colorful rainbow, which tells us there is a promise keeping God (Gen. 9:11). Spend some time just watching nature: an ant at work, a bee, the sun, moon, stars, a corn seed bursting into a stalk of corn, a beautiful sunset and the like. As our fingerprints identify our presence, divine fingerprints all around us attest to the existence of God (Ps. 8).

3) **THE WAY WE ARE MADE INDICATES THERE IS A GOD.** Do you know anyone who has ever made a man, except God? The Psalmist said, “I will praise thee: for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Ps. 139:14). Consider the eye, ear, heart of man and tell me there is no God!

4) **THE SURVIVAL OF MEN SAYS THERE IS A GOD.** In trying to get the Athenians to see there is only one true God, Paul reminded them, “God made the world and all things therein...seeing that he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things...For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring” (Acts 17:24-28). To those who do not believe there is a God, just try living without the food and air provided by God and see how well you fare!

Since there is a God, we need to be concerned about what God requires. “And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord...” (Dt. 10:12-13).

Back To Basics

P.O. Box 462
Salem, IN 47167-0462
(812) 883-4974
BcktoBscs@aol.com

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THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

John Isaac Edwards

The Bible claims to be the word of God (1 Cor. 2:12-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21), and there are many infallible proofs that corroborate and substantiate this claim.

1) **ITS HARMONY.** The Bible was written by about 40 different men over a period of some 1600 years. It is often difficult for one man to be consistent with himself through his years, yet their writings comprise one harmonious volume; without a single contradiction, discrepancy, or error.

2) **ITS SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY.** The Bible is not a science book, but everything it says touching the field of science is error free. Some 1500 years before Christ, Moses, in the first two verses of the Bible, gave, in scientific order, the first five fundamental facts of science: "In the beginning (Time) God created the heaven (Space) and the earth (Matter)...And the Spirit of God (Force), moved upon the face of the waters (Motion)." It wasn't until around AD 1500 that these facts were discovered by man.

3) **ITS FULFILLED PROPHECIES.** With nothing in the present upon which to base their statements, prophets of the Old Testament spoke with explicit detail of things to come. Every arrow of inspired utterance launched from the bow of divine prophecy is firmly fixed in the bulls-eye! Take, for example, the prophecy of Isaiah. Some 700 years before the entrance of Christ into the world, Isaiah prophesied, "a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Is. 7:14). Mary "was found with child of the Holy Ghost" and his name was called "Jesus" (Mt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:27-35), just as the prophet had said.

4) **ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFIRMATION.** The veracity of the Bible does not depend upon archaeology, but archaeological discoveries do confirm Bible teaching. Archaeology, the scientific study of material remains, is a friend of the Bible. There is nothing any archaeologist can unearth that will disprove or nullify the claims of the Bible. When the authenticity of an artifact is called into question, it is not a question of the integrity of the Bible; it is simply a matter of whether the object actually is what men think it is.

Since the Bible is the word of God, we need to read it, believe it, and obey it.

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GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH

Marc W. Gibson

The creation of the heaven and the earth was the beginning of the physical realm in which we live. I believe God created the heaven and the earth, for the following reasons:

1) **THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.** The Bible begins with these words: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). Following this statement is a detailed description of this creation over a period of six consecutive, literal days (Gen. 1:2-31). The Psalmist wrote, “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth” (Ps. 33:6). Paul preached about the one, true God, “who made the world and everything in it” (Acts 17:24).

It is not by science or philosophy that we believe that God created all things. No one was there at the beginning to observe and report what happened, nor can we return in a “time machine” to learn the facts. The only account we have is from the Creator Himself. Thus, it is “by *faith* we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (Heb. 11:3). This faith comes “by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Faith based on divine revelation is the only way to understand the creation of the heavens and the earth. Any other belief is not of God.

2) **JESUS CONFIRMED DIVINE CREATION.** Jesus said, “But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female” (Mk. 10:6). Jesus here points directly to the written account of creation in Genesis 1 as the truth about the origin of man. Though biological and

theistic evolution place man as a late entry into a contrived timeline of universal history, Jesus said man’s creation was “at the beginning of creation,” which affirms the literal six-day creation described in Genesis 1.

Jesus knew what He was talking about because the apostle Paul identified Him as “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...all things were created through Him and for Him” (Col. 1:15-17).

3) **OTHER EXPLANATIONS OF ORIGINS ARE WRONG.** The general theory of evolution postulates that the heavens and the earth originated with some kind of a “Big Bang,” which kick started a multibillion year process that is still ongoing. One must compromise, or completely reject, the Genesis account in order to accept this unproven theory. Evolutionary theory could only be true if matter is eternal or spontaneously arose out of nothing, both of which are proven impossibilities. Life comes only from life, and design demands a Designer.

Bible truth is corroborated by what we can see: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Ps. 19:1). We understand God’s power “by the things that are made” (Rom. 1:20). Indeed, we must believe that “in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” (Ex. 20:11; 31:17).

6708 O’Doniel Loop W
Lakeland, FL 33809

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD

James Hahn

John declared, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:30-31). This emphasizes the necessity of believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that this belief is based upon evidence. In John 5, Jesus appealed to various witnesses to prove His deity. Let’s examine the testimony of these witnesses.

1) **HIMSELF.** Jesus said, “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true” (Jn. 5:31). He truthfully declared Himself to be the Son of God (Jn. 4:26; 8:14, 24). He recognized, however, that under the law the testimony of one witness would not stand, so He appealed to other witnesses (Dt. 19:15).

2) **JOHN THE BAPTIST.** Jesus said, “There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth” (Jn. 5:32-33). What was John’s testimony? In John 1:33-34, John said, “And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”

3) **THE WORKS OF CHRIST.** Jesus said, “But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me” (Jn. 5:36).

Nicodemus recognized that no one could do the miracles or works Jesus did, “except God be with him” (Jn. 3:2).

4) **THE FATHER.** Jesus affirmed, “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me” (Jn. 5:37). When Jesus was baptized, the Father declared, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mt. 3:17).

5) **THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.** Jesus also appealed to the Old Testament Scriptures, in which the Jews placed their hope of eternal life. He said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (Jn. 5:39).

6) **MOSES.** Jesus made specific reference to the testimony of Moses. He said, “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me” (Jn. 5:45-46).

7) **THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE APOSTLES.** In addition to the witnesses to which Jesus appealed in John 5, He later said to the apostles, “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning” (Jn. 15:26-27).

To deny Jesus as the Son of God is to declare all these witnesses false.

*1212 Melanie CT
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342*

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

James Buchanan

I base my belief that Jesus is coming again on the word of God. The Bible affirms Jesus is coming again.

1) **JESUS SAID HE IS COMING AGAIN.** When the disciples were about to face the departure of Christ, He comforted them by promising that He was preparing a place for them and said, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (Jn. 14:2).

2) **ANGELS SAID JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.** When Jesus ascended to the Father, the apostles “looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up.” While they were doing this, “two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11).

3) **PAUL SAID JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.** Paul, more often than any other apostle, said Jesus is coming again. In one of the earliest of his epistles, Paul spoke of the hope that “in Christ all shall be made alive” and that this will happen at His coming (1 Cor. 15:22-23). On this blessed occasion, “the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52). On the day when Christ comes again, “then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor. 15:54). Consider also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, in which Paul stated, “the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout” (v. 16). Paul said these things “by the word of the Lord” (v. 15).

4) **THE WRITER OF HEBREWS SAID JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.** In reference to the future judgment, the writer said, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Heb. 9:27-28). The coming of Christ is as certain as death and the judgment.

5) **PETER SAID JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.** Peter, in response to scoffers who would say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation” (2 Pet. 3:3), spoke of the day of the Lord coming as a thief in which “both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). In light of these facts, he asked, “what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...?” (2 Pet. 3:11). Of course, they were to be sterling examples of holy conduct and godliness.

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Mt. 25:13).

*1606 Whatley ST
Columbia, TN 38401*

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THERE SHALL BE A RESURRECTION

Donnie V. Rader

One of the basic Bible doctrines is that there shall be a resurrection in the end of time. Some have taught that there is no resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12). Others have taught that the resurrection is already past (2 Tim. 2:18). I believe there shall be a resurrection in the end of time because:

1) **GOD SAID THERE WOULD BE A RESURRECTION.** Jesus said, “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (Jn. 5:28-29).

At the raising of Lazarus, Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” (Jn. 11:25). Paul affirmed that there would be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust (Acts 24:15). Later, the same apostle taught the Thessalonians saying, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus...And the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Th. 4:14-16).

Numerous passages that do not even mention the word “resurrection” or rising from the dead imply there will be a resurrection. For example, Hebrews 9:27 says that after death there will be a judgment. Also, 2 Corinthians 5:10 affirms that all will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. There must be a resurrection for there to be a judgment of those who have already died.

Other passages that teach there will be a resurrection (1 Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 4:14; Mark 12:25; Phil. 3:21).

2) **CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THUS GIVING US HOPE FOR OURSELVES.** Paul writes a whole chapter on the resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15) and argues from the resurrection of Christ. He begins by showing that the resurrection of Christ is part of the basic principles of the gospel (vv. 1-4). He then proceeds to give evidences of his resurrection by citing witnesses (vv. 5-11).

Any evidence that can be cited for the resurrection of Jesus Christ serves to confirm that we will be raised from the dead. The empty tomb, the witnesses, the change in the Jews, the transformation of the disciples, and the conversion of Saul all assure us that Jesus was raised from the dead. Being assured of that, we can have confidence that we too will raise. Several passages connect Christ’s resurrection to the resurrection at the end of time (1 Th. 4:13; 1 Cor. 6:14; Phil. 3:11).

3) **WITHOUT A RESURRECTION, THERE WOULD BE NO HEAVEN OR HELL.** Jesus connected the resurrection with receiving eternal life or eternal damnation (Jn. 5:28-29). Paul argued that if there is no resurrection, then Christ was not raised (1 Cor. 15:13). If Christ was not raised, then our faith is useless. Sin would still be in our lives. The only hope we would have would be in this life (1 Cor. 15:14-19). That would make our lives something to be pitied (v. 19).

Paul closed his great chapter on the resurrection by urging all to live in view of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:58).

*408 Dow DR
Shelbyville, TN 37160*

THERE WILL BE A DAY OF JUDGMENT

Dick Blackford

I believe there will be a final day of reckoning when every person who has ever lived will stand before the Great Judge of the Universe and will give an account of his deeds, both good and bad. I further believe those who have totally committed their will to His, having obeyed the gospel will be rewarded. And I believe those who were wicked in this life (this covers immoral reprobates, those in false religions, those who did not obey the gospel and the indifferent) will be punished eternally. I believe this because:

1) **I BELIEVE JESUS.** Could anything be more clearly taught than the concept that there is a day of reckoning? Jesus warned more often than anyone about the judgment. He gave several “judgment parables” such as, the thief in the night (Mt. 24:43-44), the faithful and wise servant (Mt. 24:45-51), the ten virgins (Mt. 25:1-10), and the talents (Mt. 25:14-30). He even depicted the judgment scene (Mt. 25:31-46).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that not only those who kill but one who is angry with his brother without just cause is in danger of the judgment (Mt. 5:21-22). When He sent His disciples out on the Limited Commission, He said if a city rejects them that it will be “more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Mt. 10:15).

Jesus will be the judge on that day, for “all judgment has been committed unto the Son” (Jn. 5:22). God, the Father, gave Jesus “authority to execute judgment” (Jn. 5:27). Even “every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Mt. 12:36). The standard of judgment will be Christ’s

own words, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him the last day” (Jn. 12:48). This passage also tells us when judgment day will be - on “the last day.”

2) **I BELIEVE THE APOSTLES.** Peter said, “He charged us to preach unto the people, and to testify that this is he who is ordained of God to be the Judge of the living and the dead” (Acts 10:42). He also said we, “shall give account to him that is ready to judge the living and the dead” (1 Pet. 4:5). He told us, “judgment will begin at the house of God” (1 Pet. 4:17). He revealed that the “Lord...keeps the unrighteous under punishment unto the day of judgment (2 Pet. 2:9). Further, he said, “the earth is stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment, and destruction of ungodly men” (2 Pet. 3:7).

Paul taught that God “has appointed a day in which he shall judge the world...” (Acts 17:30). He said, “in the day God shall judge the secrets of men, according to my gospel, by Jesus Christ” (Rom. 2:16). “All will stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (Rom. 14:10).

John desired that we “have boldness in the day of judgment (1 Jn. 4:17). In a vision, John saw “the dead judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev. 20:12).

There’s “a bright day” and “a sad day coming by and by.” Which will it be for you?

*P.O. Box 3032
State University, AR 72467*

THERE IS A HEAVEN AND A HELL

Derek Chambers

In what eventually became John Lennon's trademark song, we hear the following lines sung with a great longing:

"Imagine there's no heaven, It's easy if you try, No hell below us, Above us only sky, Imagine all the people living for today..."

Such a vision of our existence is one that has become dominant in our world today, and is often seen as the only way to a utopian existence on this earth. However, such a vision stands in direct contradiction to the word of God.

Men want paradise, and they want it on this earth. This can never be, for paradise was lost in the garden due to sin. Furthermore, a major part of the paradise that men seek on this earth is one of having no accountability before God. Thus, many have chosen to disregard what the Bible says about heaven and hell. Even among some of our brethren, the Biblical teaching of heaven and hell has been watered down or ignored altogether for fear of offending sensitive listeners.

Consider the following points that the Bible makes absolutely clear:

1) **THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH.** Job asked the question, in Job 14:14, "If a man dies, shall he live again?" Throughout the Scriptures, the answer is made known; perhaps nowhere more so than in Luke 16, when Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Both of these men died, and went either to paradise or torment. There is indeed life after death.

2) **THE SPIRITUAL REALM IS A REALITY.**

There is a spiritual realm, a spiritual reality, that is greater and stronger than what we see with our eyes. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says that the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. Hebrews 11:3 tells us that what is seen, this physical world, was not made out of things which are visible. Something or Someone spiritual made our physical existence, and we have to answer to this spiritual authority.

3) **HEAVEN AND HELL ARE ETERNAL.**

On the day of judgment, all men will face an eternal sentence, to either heaven or hell. Matthew 25:41, "Then he will also say to those on his left, Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment." Matthew 25:46, "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

4) **THE BIBLE TEACHES NO SUCH THING AS PURGATORY OR REINCARNATION.**

These are the doctrines of man, not of the Bible. Hebrews 9:27, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."

For so many in this world, this world is all there is, and they will stop at nothing to prolong their life. For those in Christ, however, we understand that, "the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever" (1 Jn. 2:17).

*6000 Cortaderia ST NE #3116
Albuquerque, NM 87111*

Kid's Activity Page

Paul Adams

Memory Verse: "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).

I Believe...

Write corresponding letter below each number.

Use this key to reveal things we are to believe.

1-A, 2-E, 3-I, 4-O, 5-U, 6-Y, 7-B, 8-F, 9-J, 10-P, 11-V, 12-Z, 13-X, 14-T, 15-N, 16-H, 17-D, 18-C, 19-G, 20-L, 21-R, 22-W, 23-M, 24-Q, 25-K, 26-S

14 16 2 21 2 3 26 1 19 4 17 (Heb. 11:6)

9 2 26 5 26 3 26 14 16 2 26 4 15 4 8 19 4 17 (Mt. 16:16)

19 4 17 18 21 2 1 14 2 17 14 16 2 22 4 21 20 17 (Gen. 1:1)

14 16 2 7 3 7 20 2 3 26 14 16 2 22 4 21 17 4 8 19 4 17 (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

9 2 26 5 26 3 26 18 4 23 3 15 19 1 19 1 3 15 (Jn. 14:1-6)

14 16 2 21 2 22 3 20 20 7 2 1 21 2 26 5 21 21 2 18 14 3 4 15 (Jn. 5:28-29)

14 16 2 21 2 22 3 20 20 7 2 1 17 1 6 4 8 9 5 17 19 23 2 15 14 (Heb. 9:27)

14 16 2 21 2 3 26 1 16 2 1 11 2 15 1 15 17 16 2 20 20 (Mt. 25:46)

**"Suffer the little children to come unto me,
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).**

WHAT ARE WE TO BELIEVE?

George Parsley

There are a number of things in which we are told to believe for salvation. The religious world says to keep the Ten Commandments, only believe, just be a good person, and so on. We look to the truth as revealed by the Holy Spirit to find the answer as to what we are to believe (Jn. 16:13).

1) **BELIEVE IN CHRIST.** Jesus said, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24). If we do not believe that Jesus is the Son of the living God, then we have no hope. We will die in our wickedness and be sentenced to a devil's hell.

2) **BELIEVE IN GOD.** Hebrews 11:6 reads, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." We must not half-heartedly believe in God, but must believe in Him in the good times as well as the bad.

3) **BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL.** The Great Commission records, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16). What are we to believe? We are to believe that which Jesus said to preach - the gospel. Christ said he that believes the gospel and is baptized shall be saved. So, in this context, if we do not believe what the Lord said about baptism then we are damned.

4) **BELIEVE NOT EVERY SPIRIT.** John taught, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try

the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1). When we start to believe in things other than what the Holy Spirit revealed, we are led astray. We need to be reminded, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Th. 2:10-12). What do you believe: The truth or a man-made lie?

21220 Dexter BLVD
Warren, MI 48039

"Blessed Is He That Readeth"		
Daily Bible Reading Schedule For October		
Day	Morning	Evening
1	Is. 22-23	Eph. 3
2	Is. 24-26	Eph. 4
3	Is. 27-28	Eph. 5
4	Is. 29-30	Eph. 6
5	Is. 31-33	Phil. 1
6	Is. 34-36	Phil. 2
7	Is. 37-38	Phil. 3
8	Is. 39-40	Phil. 4
9	Is. 41-42	Col. 1
10	Is. 43-44	Col. 2
11	Is. 45-47	Col. 3
12	Is. 48-49	Col. 4
13	Is. 50-52	1 Th. 1
14	Is. 53-55	1 Th. 2
15	Is. 56-58	1 Th. 3
16	Is. 59-61	1 Th. 4
17	Is. 62-64	1 Th. 5
18	Is. 65-66	2 Th. 1
19	Jer. 1-2	2 Th. 2
20	Jer. 3-4	2 Th. 3
21	Jer. 5-6	1 Tim. 1
22	Jer. 7-8	1 Tim. 2
23	Jer. 9-10	1 Tim. 3
24	Jer. 11-13	1 Tim. 4
25	Jer. 14-16	1 Tim. 5
26	Jer. 17-19	1 Tim. 6
27	Jer. 20-22	2 Tim. 1
28	Jer. 23-24	2 Tim. 2
29	Jer. 25-26	2 Tim. 3
30	Jer. 27-28	2 Tim. 4
31	Jer. 29-30	Ti. 1

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