
Just Believe in Jesus

Radio Message by Dwight Porter

Is it any wonder we have so many weak, sickly so-called Christians in our midst? Christ commanded the woman of Samaria to believe Him after He exposed her sin of having five husbands and not married to the one she then lived with. (Not an unfamiliar practice in our day.) She acknowledged personal sin as she proclaimed the Saviour. "Come see a man, who told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29)

Many people today give mental assent to a historical Jesus. They have no vital union with His Spirit and depend upon Him no more than historical figures such as Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. They have not met the Sovereign Creator and Ruler of the universe. His control over them is an unheard of demand. They have come to God for their personal needs rather than to fulfill His plan and purpose. At the age of five, I heard my first lie. It came from my best friend. In shock I remember exclaiming to my father, "Chuck Mason lied to me!" That was back in Marion, Ohio in the year of 1932. Little did I realize the scope of such hypocrisy to be faced during my lifetime. My father was a Baptist Pastor and was the genuine article.

There are many within our churches who profess to be in God's family and resemble the worldings about them more than transformed lives of new creatures in Christ Jesus. They seem to think that the Gospel is an announcement that God has relaxed His Justice and lowered the standard of His Holiness. His infinite abhorrence of sin has diminished according to the lifestyle of many so-called Christians. Calvary represents a graphic display of God's hatred of sin that time and eternity will never dim.

WHAT MUST I DO?

The jailer, asking direction to be saved, has just witnessed a miracle. "And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundation of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed" (Acts 16:26). One great miracle was that none of the prisoners walked out of the dungeon. Who wants to leave singing and praying preachers in their midnight hour?

Remember, the man asking this question was in deep despair. "And the keeper of the prison, awakening our of his sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled" (Acts 16:27). His self-complacency was shattered for he "came trembling." He found his proper place before God, "He fell down before Paul and Silas". He showed respect for God's servants as "He brought them out." He had deep concern for his soul in acknowledging his lost and hopeless condition when he *asked*, "What must I do to be saved?"

JUST BELIEVE

We hear it over and over. This man was awakened by the Holy Spirit. He was prostrate on the ground asking for direction. Already he had acknowledged his sin in repentance. Remember, he desired direction as a lost man wanting to be rescued. How many places in the Bible are the apostles addressing a crowd of idolatrous heathen, telling

them all they had to do was just believe on Jesus? The message desperately needed by the unconverted is the character of the person they must meet and depend upon. They must hear His righteous demands and the horrible consequence of disregarding Him and going their own way. Remember such rejection means the present wrath of God. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

The Gospel of the New Testament is that Christ DIED FOR SINNERS. God announces a Saviour from sin instead of present-day preachers who declare a Saviour from Hell. Here is the explanation for so many professing Christians being fatally deceived; for many wish to escape the flames of the Lake of Fire, who have no desire to be delivered from their sinful desires, carnality and worldliness. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people FROM THEIR SINS." (Not from the wrath to come) Matt. 1:21).

There is far more demanded of us than faith. 'I tell you, Nay. But except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish' (Luke 13:3). Repentance and faith are not identical. Also note that repentance precedes faith. "Testifying both of the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). "For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not; but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him" (Matt. 21:32). "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God; for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7). "Just receive Christ as Saviour while rejecting Him as Lord. The jailer's question for direction was answered when told to believe on THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (Acts 16:31).

Imagine coming to Christ without any commitment to be under His authority. Christ is "the author of the eternal Salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:9). We have no ability to obey; but we will automatically do so upon being regenerated with an impartation of HIS Spirit within our heart and mind, (again, His Spirit.)

GOD'S DIRECTION

Our response to the easy believism of our day is clear. Here is Biblical direction: 'If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed; For he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 10,11). And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but, rather, reprove them" (Eph. 5:11). It is the God-given duty of every genuine Christian (there are no other kind) to withhold all moral and financial support of people who are bypassing repentance and holy living. We ought not to support their meeting or distribute their literature. Imagine the folly of telling sinners they can be saved without forsaking their idols, without surrendering to the authority of the Lordship of Christ. There is no other message in the Bible.

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