

ETERNITY



Repeat after me, 'I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.' Now, there you have it, you are now saved." How often have you heard this said? How often have you said it yourself? This thinking expresses, "only believe and you will be saved." There are several problems with this type of thinking. A. W. Tozer once said, it requires that Jesus would "stand hat-in-hand awaiting our verdict on Him, instead of kneeling with troubled hearts awaiting his verdict on us." The picture here depicts Jesus standing before you, the judge, having looked at all the evidence, and waiting (and hoping) that you will give the verdict, I believe. I accept."

Man is like that; he always wants to be in control. Yes, we have been given the freedom to make our own decisions, but it is God who is in control. Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you..." (John 15:16.) He later said, "...but I have chosen you out of the world..." (John 15:19). It is God who will judge us. Paul said that the Lord is the "Righteous Judge" (2 Timothy 4:8). "...The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:30-31). "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement" (Hebrews 9:27).

The word "believe" in many cases in the Bible is an action word (verb) In James 2 we find an entire chapter on faith (believing) producing action (works). James reveals true faith is evidenced by obeying the Word of God (James 1); by action (James 2); and by words (James 3).

The devil knows that we like to have everything "the easy way" so he would like us to believe part of the truth and leave the rest. Daniel Mena

in, "There is More To Being Saved Than Easy Believism" states that a "half-truth is more dangerous than an outright lie. Only the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth will save a man or woman from sin." He later counsels, "Eternity is too long to be wrong!"

E. L. Cole in his book, *Strong Men In Tough Times*, states "a person's beliefs hold the greatest potential for good or harm in life. What is believed about God holds the potential for death or life everlasting." He admonishes us that "...we must be taught not only to believe but to believe right...belief is the basis for conduct, character and destiny. Wrong conduct is based on wrong believing."

Someone has said, "What is popular is not always right. What is right is not always popular." It is not safe just to go by what everyone else is doing (or not doing).

To "believe" is to commit ourselves to Jesus Christ, considering that he is worthy of our trust and can be counted on to keep his promises. John said, "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 20:31). How do we receive life through His name? We obey His Word:

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

Have you repented of your sins?

Have you been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ?

Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

When we believe, we entrust and commit ourselves totally to Jesus Christ. It involves a total commitment on our part. "...For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

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