

Lesson A. Believing The Gospel:

1. Mark points out the truth about believing.

Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Believe means to put your trust into something, I believe the light will come on if I flip the switch. Even though I believe the light will come on if I flip the switch it will not come on until I flip the switch. The book of Mark in the first chapter tells man to repent and believe and at the end of the book it tells us to believe and be baptized. We may believe the gospel but until we put it into action we will remain a sinner.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

2. John points out some truths about believing.

John 1:12. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: John tells us that believing on his name is what gives us power to become the sons of God. If we believe there is a supreme being, it will not make us sons of God but believing on his name will. Therefore we must know his name to believe in his name. What is that name? Jesus Christ. “When did we received him” or “how did the sons of God receive Christ”? They received Christ when they believed on his name and was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) Here we see that Christ said those that believe as the scripture teaches should receive the Holy Ghost. We can understand then that believing has conditions. It must be as the scripture decrees.

I Jn 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:

and his commandments are not grievous. John tells us that the true believer will love God and be obedient to the commandments of God. Obedience will be the proof that a person believes that Jesus is the Christ.

By these words we understand that believing requires a reaction of obedience to the gospel. **John 2:5** *His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.* Mary was speaking of Jesus. If Jesus tells us in his word to believe, repent, be baptized, pray, live holy or give us any other instructions we must do it. Mary had been with Jesus for thirty years and she knew that he was called “*Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*” She knew his ability to perform any task that was impossible to man. She knew that to obey him would bring a blessings and miracles. She said do what ever he tells you. The first step in coming into the will of God is to believe in the scripture and do it.

3. Phillip points out truths concerning believing.

Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Notice in these scriptures that Phillip preached the gospel of salvation. How did the Eunuch know that he needed to be baptized unless he wasn't instructed too? Phillip had indeed preached the gospel of Jesus to him. The Eunuch believed the gospel and asked to be baptized, but Phillip question his faith and said “*If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest*” When the Eunuch said “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*” Phillip submersed him in water. Phillip shows us that if we believe with all our heart we will be baptized for the remission of sins.

Phillip wanted to know if he believed with all his heart. One must have confidence in the ability of Christ to save the sinner from his sin. Believing will take a person beyond confession; it will take him under the water and bring him up a new creature as it did the Eunuch.

Acts 8:5 *Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.* What did the people in Samaria do when Phillip preached the gospel of Christ unto them? Not only did the

people believe but they were baptized as Mark wrote. “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*” Their trust in the gospel was put into action. Phillip preached, they listened, they saw and their faith turned into action.

4. James points out some truths about believing

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? James tells us there is no profit in just believing and not doing anything about it. Faith without works cannot save anyone. *15* If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, *16* And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Here he compares neglecting a brother is of no profit and to neglect obeying the gospel is not profitable.

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Faith alone has no life and gives no life because it is dead but when you add works to it, you give faith life. *18* Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. James points out that works is the proof of faith. *19* Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. Here James explains that the devil believes there is but one God as the bible teaches but even though he believes in One God, he trembles because his faith has no value for salvation. If there is no works of righteousness there is no value in believing there is one God.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? This is the second time James points out that faith must have works to be alive. *21* Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Abraham was justified because he took his son to the altar to be sacrificed, he understood that God would provide a sacrifice and he put his faith to work. *22* Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? It was because he obeyed God and took his son to the altar that his faith was made perfect.

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. *24* Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. *25* Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? The only way faith or believing is profitable is by obeying God or the evidence of faith being alive is submission to the scripture. *26* For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. The breath of faith is being a doer of the word and not just a hearer of the word.

James 1:23 *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.* While before a mirror we recognize the features of our face some good and some bad, but instead of doing something about the bad we continue with a dirty face forgetting that it was unclean. Some have looked in the mirror to discover their hair uncombed and is called away to do something else quickly forgetting to comb their hair until another says something to them or they realize they forgot. That would be as a hearer of the word and not a doer.

A doer cleans the face and combs the hair while looking into the mirror. “ *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*” James tells us we must hear and obey and be a doer of the work in order to be blessed. It is a greater blessing to clean the face and comb the hair than to let it go. When the person hears his mind say clean the face and comb the hair but doesn’t or if he forgets, that person will be significantly embarrassed and ashamed.

Those that fail to clean them selves from unrighteousness will be greatly embarrassed and ashamed as the stand before the Lord.¹ “ *why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” *When one sees self, he will realize his need for God and seek to wash away the unclean things.*

5. Other Biblical Points of View.

If we believe we will put forth effort knowing the scripture that God’s blessings come to those that obey. An example of such a hearer and doer in Noah; Noah trusted that God was going to destroy the earth with a flood. He would have been a fool to sit back and wait for it to happen but because of his faith he and his sons built the ark and was saved. Lot had faith as he pleaded with his children to come out of the world and be saved, but they mocked him and they perished as he was taken out of the fire and they were left behind. Joshua was told to march around the walls of Jericho, he didn’t tell the Lord it wasn’t necessary, he walked and did what he heard; he put faith into action. I’m sure he wasn’t disappointed as the walls fell down.

Old Testament types and shadows prove that faith requires action from the believer to be saved. If you have faith as the scripture teaches you will take action and obey the gospel as was taught in the book of Acts. Putting faith to work is the only way a believer will receive blessings. Faith alone is unprofitable. Because of my faith in

¹ Acts 22:16

the gospel of Jesus Christ I repented, I was baptized, I received the Holy Spirit and walk in the Spirit.

The Greek word used for believing is “Pisteuo”: meaning to be persuaded in doing what is taught. Means to agree, assure, obey, persuade, trust and yield too.

II Th 2:10-17*
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.

This verse *

clearly tells us that some will receive the truth but not love it and not be saved. God will send a delusion, there will always be people that will pervert the gospel and those that will believe the perverted version of the gospel; they will receive a lie in partiality over the truth and perish because they stubbornly and prideful refuse to be saved.

Funk and Wagnall dictionary, page 110 gave this definition for believing: To accept as truth; be convinced of; as a result of studying and reasoning. To have faith in and to be sure of the existence, truth or strength of anything. In the biblical case it would refer to believing that Jesus Christ can remit sins as the Apostles and Jesus

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7. Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

taught.

Paul wrote this letter in between 50AD and 60 AD. What gospel did Paul preach? Acts 19:1-6 tells us he preached the same gospel that Jesus told him in John 3:3-8 and Peter preached on the day the church was born in Acts 2:38. Luke alleged to have a perfect understanding of the scriptures from the first and he wrote the Acts of the Apostles and Luke. He wrote. “... *Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.*”

Acts 2:41 Then they {3000} that gladly received his word were baptized. In the second chapter of Acts we see that people heard the gospel, believed the gospel

that their sins would be remitted in the name of Jesus and put their faith in the name Jesus into action.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

Peter preached Jesus Christ “*and his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*” The results occurred when Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him up. Peter had to put his faith into action and the man obeyed Peter. “*Then Peter said, ... In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*” {Acts 3rd chapter}

The works of the law does not save us; we are saved by grace through faith in Christ.

Questions:

Fill in the blanks and circle the correct answer using the verses given for the answer.

1. **Mark 1:14** In this verse who Preached: *The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.* **A. John the Baptist; B. Peter; C. Jesus Christ; D. James.**
2. **Mark 16:16** He that believeth and **A. Confesses his sin; B. Is baptized; C. Calls on the Heaven; D. Trust,** shall be saved;
3. *But he that believeth not shall be* **A. Free from judgment; B. Damned; C. Saved by grace; D. All people go to Heaven.** ‘
4. **John 1:12.** “*As many as received him, to them gave he _____ to become the _____ of God, even to them that believe on _____:*”
5. **John 7:38** He that believeth on me, **A. As the scripture has said; B. As a pastor has said; C. As my parents taught me; D. As the religious community teaches,** *out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*
6. **John 7: 39** Rivers of living water is **A. The Jordan River; B. Faith; C. Holy Ghost.**
7. **I Jn 5:1** *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God.* What is the love of God, **A. That we do well; B. That we believe in him. C. That we keep his commandments; D. That we have a form of godliness.**

8. **John 2:5** *His mother saith unto the servants, A. Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. B. If thou Liveth for Jesus; C. Man needeth not Works; D. Fetcheth thou water for the pots.*
9. **Acts 8:37** *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. A. Be saved; B. Be satisfied. C. Be baptized D. Enter heaven.*
10. **Acts 8:12** *But when they _____ Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were _____,*
11. **James 2:17** *Which statement is true? A. Even so faith, if it hath not works, is alive, being alone; B. Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone; C. Even so faith, if it hath not works, is Acceptable, being alone; D. Even so faith, if it hath not works, is grace, being alone.*
12. **Gal 1:6** *“...there be some that trouble you, and would _____ the gospel of Christ. 8. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other _____ unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be _____ . 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other _____ unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*
13. When Did Paul write this letter? Between __ and __AD
14. What gospel did the 3,000 believe on the Day of Pentecost that Peter preached in ACTs 2:38? _____, and be _____ every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of _____, and ye shall receive the _____ of the Holy Ghost.