

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST: -

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

☞ The most famous verse in the whole Bible records the truth of the gospel of Christ in these simple words, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16.)

- “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*” (John 6:47.)
- John the Baptist’s mission was “*to bear witness of the Light, that all [men] through him might believe*” (John 1:7.)
- John has recorded the truth that “*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 1:12.)
- Every person “*that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God*” is the one “*that overcometh the world*” (1 John 5:5.)

BELIEVING ON JESUS AND THE RESURRECTION: -

- Jesus has linked together believing on him unto eternal life and being raised up in the resurrection at the last day in these simple words, “*every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day*” (John 6:40.)

Jesus has taught us that believing in him is the key to the final victory over death through the resurrection, “*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*” (John 11:25 & 26.)

When Jesus used the phrase as recorded in VERSE 26 above referring to the believer that he “*shall never die*”, he is referring to the fact that the believer “*shall not be hurt of the second death*” (Revelation 2:11.) This has to be the case because of the Divine Decree that has been passed upon every human being, “*it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*” (Hebrews 9:27.) The believer “*shall never die*”, that is, they shall never experience the 2nd Death from which there is no resurrection, because they shall be “*blessed and holy*” and they shall have a “*part in the first resurrection*”, and “*on such the second death hath no power*” (Revelation 20:6.)

BELIEVING ON CHRIST THE CHIEF CORNER STONE: -

- The gospel prophet Isaiah has left on record a prophecy concerning the Messiah and believing upon this precious Corner Stone and Sure Foundation.

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [stone], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.” (Isaiah 28:16.)

The apostle Paul has applied this prophecy of the Corner Stone to be referring to Jesus Christ. Therefore Isaiah’s prophecy actually refers to believing on Jesus Christ.

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]” (Ephesians 2:20.)

The apostle Peter quotes Isaiah’s prophecy both in his preaching and in his 1st epistle, and he applies it to Jesus Christ being the Corner Stone that the builders rejected; and he also contrasts the preciousness of Christ to those who believe on him, with the truth that he is a stumbling stone to those who do not believe but are disobedient to him.

“Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, ... This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.” (Acts 4:10 & 11.)

“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, [even to them] which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” (1 Peter 2:6-8.)

BELIEVING IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: -

- Jesus’ first recorded public proclamation when he began his public ministry contained the exhortation to *“repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15).*
- Jesus when commissioning his disciples to *“preach the gospel to every creature”*, leaves us in no doubt how important it is that we believe in the gospel and undergo Christian baptism in these words *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15 & 16).*
- The apostle Paul informs us concerning *“the gospel of Christ”*, that it indeed *“is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Romans 1:16).*

BELIEVING ON CHRIST FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS: -

- The apostle Peter preached to the Roman Centurion Cornelius and his household concerning Jesus, *“that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).*

The apostle Paul preached concerning Christ, *“that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things” (Acts 13:38 & 39).*

The apostle Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans linking together believing in Christ and justification in these words,

“Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:22 - 24.)

- The following contrast to the above message of forgiveness and faith has been given to us in the words of Jesus concerning the unbelieving Jews of his day, *“if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24).*

BELIEVING ON JESUS AND CHRISTIAN BAPTISM: -

- When the evangelist Philip preached of Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, the eunuch after listening to his preaching desired to be baptized, the evangelist stated to him the following condition, *“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”* The eunuch’s reply was a positive affirmation of Christ, *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:37.)*

After such a positive confession of his faith in Jesus, we have it recorded that *“they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” (Acts 8:38.)*

- When Paul and Silas were asked by the jailer at Philippi, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30),* their answer to him was contained in the brief synopsis of the Christian faith, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:31.)*

We say that it was a **brief synopsis** of the Christian faith, because Luke has recorded the little noticed fact in the next verse, that Paul and Silas, *“spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house” (Acts 16:32).*

Clearly, the simple statement of Paul and Silas that has been recorded for us in Acts 16:31 is **not** all that these gospel workers instructed the jailer and his household in, before he *“was baptized, he and all his” (Acts 16:33).* After receiving this further instruction from Paul and Silas, and undergoing Christian Baptism, the jailer *“rejoiced, believing in God with all his house” (Acts 16:34).*

THE BIBLICAL RECORD CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST IS NECESSARY FOR BELIEVING UNTO ETERNAL LIFE: -

- Jesus himself taught us how important it is for us to believe in the writings of the Scriptures including the Old Testament writings if we are to believe in him.
“For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” (John 5:46 & 47.)
- John’s gospel has recorded for us the teachings, works and life of Christ for the purpose that *“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.)*

BELIEVING IN JESUS IN REALITY IS BELIEVING IN THE FATHER WHO SENT HIM: -

- Jesus himself exhorted his disciples that seeing “*ye believe in God*”, they should “*believe also in me*” (John 14:1).

This is because of the following simple truths that the apostle John has recorded for us concerning the relationship that exists between the Father and the Son.

“I and [my] Father are one.” (John 10:30.)

“I am in the Father, and the Father in me” (John 14:10).

Jesus in praying to his heavenly Father in the well known prayer as recorded in John 17, prayed for the unity that should exist between his disciples by comparing it to the unity that exists between his Father and himself in these words, “*that they may be one, even as we are one*” (John 17:22).

When Jesus answered the disciple Philip’s question concerning the disciple’s wish to be shown the Father, Jesus answered his question by referring to the unity that exists between the Father and the Son, “*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father*” (John 14:9).

We must also remember, “*the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world*” (1 John 4:14).

- The apostle John has recorded the truth “*that all [men] should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*” (John 5:23.)

Because of this essential **oneness** and **unity** that exists between the Father and the Son, the apostle John has stated, “*Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also].*” (1 John 2:23.)

- Therefore because of the above relationship and unity that exists between the Father and the Son, Jesus stated a very simple truth that follows from this relationship in the following words, “*He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me*” (John 12:44).

“Whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me” (Mark 9:37).

This is why the apostle Peter exhorted his readers to “*believe in God, that raised him (that is, Christ – compiler) up from the dead*” (1 Peter 1:21).

Jesus himself has made it clear how important it is to believe in the Father in these words, “*He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*” (John 5:24).

DOES BELIEVING IN JESUS FREE US FROM THE NECESSITY OF GOOD WORKS AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD?

☞ The above is a vital question that we need to understand what the Scriptures actually teach on this point. On this issue there is great deal of confusion within the ranks of Christendom as to what the New Testament writings actually teach concerning this question.

- The apostle Paul asked a simple question that has a direct bearing on this very issue in his epistle to the Romans, *“Do we then make void the law through faith?”* His answer is given to us in a very emphatic manner, *“God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”* (Romans 3:31.)
- The apostle Paul exhorted his fellow gospel worker Titus to teach constantly as being profitable for his listeners to follow the following instruction that answers the above question, *“[This is] a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”* (Titus 3:8.)
- The apostle Paul in his epistle to the Hebrews informs us that the Son of God has become *“the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”* (Hebrews 5:9).
- The apostle James leaves us in no doubt as to where the truth of God lies concerning this issue in the following passage from his general epistle.
“What [doth it] profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 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? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 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. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent [them] out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:14 - 26.)
- Also of interest on this point is the truth communicated to us by the apostle Paul concerning *“the children of disobedience”*, among whom he lists the following individuals and their ultimate fate, *“that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”* He adds further that is of interest to us on this point that, *“because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience”* (Ephesians 5:5 & 6).

A SIMPLE SUMMARY OF THIS STUDY: -

☞ *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not¹ the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* (John 3:36.)

¹ The Greek word that has been translated as *“that believeth not”* in the KJV is the verb *“apeitheo”* – See Strong’s Concordance, Greek, No. 544. It is defined as *“disobey, be disobedient”* - A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by W. Bauer. Translated and revised by W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker; page 82. A more accurate translation of the phrase in the 2nd part of the verse would be *“and he that is not obedient to the Son shall not see life”*. This would harmonize well with Hebrews 5:9.