Unless You Believe

Tony Mauck · John 8:24

INTRODUCTION

- Unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins.
- The real rub is how you're going to define the word believe. What does believe involve?

1 Is Any Kind of Believing Good Enough?

John 6:47; John 6:53; John 3:5

- When you come to accept that Jesus is the Savior, at the moment you accept that truth, they teach that you are saved without any further response, and that you are saved forever.
- I would teach that repentance is implied in the Gospel of John.
- Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in yourselves.
- Unless you are born of water and the Spirit, you shall not see the kingdom of God.

2 Believers Who Were Yet Unbelievers

John 5:18; John 5:38–44; John 12:42–43

- The number of folks who believed and yet were unbelievers. They believed in God. They weren't atheists. They believed in the law of Moses.
- They would not confess him for fear of the Jews.
- For they loved the approval of men more than the approval of God.
- They don't have the approval of God because they will not confess him, which helps us to define the nature of true believing.

3 Look in the Context, John 3

John 3:16; John 3:19–21; Matthew 7:21

- God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. That whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- He who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.
- Whatever you're going to do about belief, it's got to incorporate being born of the water and the spirit. It has to involve confession of Jesus.
- Believing involves more than just a simple acceptance of the truth that Jesus is Lord and Savior.

4 My Sheep Hear My Voice and Follow Me

John 10; John 12:48; John 14:15

- My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me.
- You can't say, I believe in Jesus, and then do your own thing.

- He that rejects me and receives not my sayings has one that judges him, the word that I have spoken.
- If you love me, keep my commandments.
- The belief of John's gospel is a belief that acts.

5 Why Does John Emphasize Belief?

Romans 6:3–5; Matthew 4:4; John 14:26

- It would be nonsense. For Jesus to spell out the meaning of his death and specific requirements during his ministry since he had not yet died.
- He is preparing the people for action. Like John's baptism of repentance was doing.
- It's not the only book of the New Testament that addresses what one must do to be saved.

6 At What Point Does Belief Save?

James 2; Acts 2:38; Acts 16

- Yes, belief is what saves, but we must properly define what believing involves.
- Faith without works or action is dead.
- This faith that saves, the faith that Jesus is talking about in John chapter 8, is a faith that acts, and when one repents and is baptized, at that point, sins are forgiven.
- There was a believer on the road to Damascus who was not yet saved until he was baptized.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you believed to the saving of your soul?

MY NOTES