**Does It Matter What We Believe?**

John 3:16 reads “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.” So it surely does matter what we believe; if we don’t believe in Jesus we won’t be saved.

Unfortunately most so called Christians don’t think it matters what you believe on anything else. They think all you have to do to be saved is believe in Jesus, and nothing else matters. That is patently false.

Let me illustrate …

If we believe the resurrection is already past, our faith is overthrown. II Tim 2:18 says “Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”

Another example – we must believe in the resurrection of Christ or we can’t be saved - Rom 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

We must also believe that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him – Heb 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Most people I see who claim to be Christians act like they don’t believe we must diligently seek God. Their actions speak louder than their words. Their lives are not much different that the worldly people around them.

Matt 15:14 reads “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” That says if we allow a false teacher to cause us to believe false doctrine, we will be lost just like they will. So you see it is very important what we believe.

We must believe and practice the truth, because only the truth will set us free from sin (John 8:32).

What do you believe?

Do you believe in the deity of Christ? Do you believe John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word (Jesus, verse 14) was with God, and the Word (Jesus) was God”?

Do you believe the Pope is the head of the church or do you believe “Christ is the head of the church” like Eph 5:23 says?

Do you believe in “faith only” salvation or do you believe James 2:24 “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only”?

Do you believe Jesus’ kingdom is yet to come (premillennialism), or do you agree with passages like Mark 9:1, Col 1:13, and Rev 1:9 that Jesus’ kingdom came into existence beginning with His resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:20-31)?

Do you believe “worship with the church of your choice” as many preachers would tell you, or do you believe we ought to worship with a congregation that’s faithfully following God’s word (II John 9-11), a church of God’s choice?

Living according or our beliefs is very important also. Sometimes people believe the right thing but don’t act on it. John 12:42-43 is a good illustration of such – “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”