

Does it make any difference what we believe?

(by George Battey)

It is obvious that people believe different things about religion. Some worship on Saturday because they believe the seventh day is still a holy Sabbath that must be observed today. In regards to baptism, some sprinkle rather than immerse because they believe sprinkling will work just as well as immersion. Some observe communion once a month rather than every Sunday because they believe one way is just as good as another. A hundred years ago you would have never heard of a woman preacher, an ordained homosexual, or a church that endorses abortion, but times have changed and we are being told that it doesn't matter what we believe.

Does it matter what we believe? Is any one set of beliefs any better than another, or any worse?

IF IT DOESN'T MATTER

Think with me on this question.

1) If it doesn't matter what we believe, then atheism is as good as faith in God.

Now isn't this true? If it really doesn't matter at all what one believes, then atheism would be just as good as belief in God! But the Bible says:

Psalms 14:1 (NKJV)

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." ...

This idea that it doesn't matter what we believe is false! It certainly does matter what we believe about God.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Can you see that it matters what we believe about God.

But again:

2) If it doesn't matter what we believe, then the belief in many gods is just as good as faith in the one true God.

Yet, Jesus said:

Mark 12:29 (NKJV)

29 ... "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Can you see that it makes a difference in what we believe?

Again:

3) If it doesn't make any difference what we believe, then a disbelief in Christ is just as good as faith in Christ.

Yet Jesus said:

John 8:24 (NKJV)

24 "... if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

When the apostle Peter was preaching he said:

Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Obviously it makes a difference what we believe about Jesus.

4) If it doesn't make any difference what we believe, then belief in any book is just as good as belief in the Scriptures.

But Jesus said:

John 8:32 (NKJV)

32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 17:17 (NKJV)

17 "... Your word is truth.

5) If it doesn't matter what men believe, then there is no need to convert any man and try to change his thinking.

Yet in Acts 19:1-5 we find the apostle of the Lord preaching to men and trying to change their minds. He convinced them that they were so wrong they had to be re-baptized.

In Acts 8:26-40 Philip tried to change the thinking of a very religious man. This man was so devout and religious that he had traveled about 2000 miles to worship God, but his beliefs were wrong and they needed changing and Philip the evangelist preached to him and changed his thinking.

In Acts 9:1-8 Saul of Tarsus was very religious and very devout, yet the Lord appeared to him and spoke with him to change his beliefs!

You see ... it does make a difference what men believe! That's why God gave us His word and commanded it to be preached! He gave us preachers in order to change men's thinking, because it makes a difference what we believe!

GOD HAS REVEALED TRUTH

My friend, God has revealed the truth in the Scriptures! Only when men believe the truth will they be saved:

John 8:32 (NKJV)

32 “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Since only the truth will set men free, the only safe thing to believe is the truth! Believing a lie, even though we may not know it is a lie, will cost us our soul!

When men say, “It doesn’t matter what you believe.” Or, “It doesn’t matter how you get baptized.” Or, “It doesn’t matter how you conduct your worship services,” it makes me wonder why God even spoke on these issues!

- 1) *If it doesn’t matter what we believe, then why has God told us what to believe???*
- 2) *If it doesn’t matter how we get baptized, then why has God told us how to do it???*
- 3) *If it doesn’t matter how we conduct our worship services, then why has God told us exactly how to do it?*

The very fact that God has given us the Bible and has told us what to believe and how to be saved and how to worship tells me that it makes a big difference what we believe and what we do!

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

Five steps in God’s plan of salvation:

- 1) **Hear** the word of God (Rom 10:17).
- 2) **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- 3) **Repent** of sins (change from living a sinful life) (Acts 2:38).
- 4) **Confess** your faith verbally before men (Rom 10:10).

- 5) **Be baptized** (immersed) in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Mark 16:16 (NKJV)

*16 He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; ...*

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

*38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and** let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; ...*

After being baptized, one must continue to be faithful (Acts 2:42; Mt 28:20; Rev 2:10).