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# BIBLE TALK

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## Part 1

This week we are discussing this issue: **What lessons should we learn from the terrorism of 9-11?**

On September 11, 2001, Islamic Extremists hijacked civilian airliners which they flew into the World Trade Center (NY) and the Pentagon. One airliner crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. A total of 2,977 victims died along with the 19 terrorists themselves.

What are some lessons we can learn from this worst day of terrorism in our country's history?

### **WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVE MATTERS**

The first lesson we all need to learn is something which we at the church of Christ have been saying for a long time – **it matters what you believe in religion**. For a long, long time people have been saying, *“It doesn’t matter what you believe in religion ... just as long as you’re sincere!”* My friend, can you see the folly of this? Can you see how wrong this philosophy is?

Think about these terrorists:

- They were sincere.
- They believed that the doctrine that “the end justifies the means.”
- They were taught and they believed with all their hearts that if they die committing acts of terrorism against non-Muslims, they would be ushered directly into heaven where seventy virgins would be awaiting them.

I ask you to judge for yourself: **Does it matter what you believe in religion?** It absolutely matters! The reason that religious beliefs matter is because religious beliefs affect how people act.

While it is true that we live in a free country and we are free to believe anything we want, this does not mean:

- That everything people believe is equal in value.
- That everything people believe is true.
- That everything people believe is beneficial for society.

There are some doctrines which are simply wrong. Some doctrines are dangerous and detrimental to the welfare of society.

### **Mark 4:24**

24 Then [Jesus] said to them, "**Take heed what you hear.** ...

Do you know why Jesus said this? Because what people listen to is what they end up believing and what people believe affects how they act.

My friend, you have the right to believe whatever you wish in religion. If you want to be an atheist, that's your privilege. If you want to believe religious doctrines are silly and not worth bothering over, that is also your privilege. You may legally believe whatever you want, but that does not mean you are right. Your freedom gives you the right to be wrong ... absolutely and completely wrong.

The church of Christ is here to tell you that it matters what you believe religiously.

### **Galatians 1:8-9**

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

The Bible and **the Bible only** is the source of all religious truth. It will stand the test of debate. There is no other religious book in the world which is equal with the Bible and the Bible only. The Holy Bible contains God's will for us today – and all of God's will. There is not any religious truth left out of the Bible.

Think about this. We will continue on with this topic next week. For now, just remember: **It matters what people believe religiously!** If you want truth, you have to come back to the Bible.