

What & Why Do You Believe?

John 20:29-31

November 16, 2014

VIDEO: *Gospel of John 20:19-31*

Intro: “Typical Believing” = seat cushion floatation device...

“Biblical Believing” = trusting in your parachute!

- Noun. & Verb
- Still photo & IMax movie!

Biblical believing = obeying & abiding

(see John 15)

I.

Believing Brings Blessing!

v.29 *Jesus said to him (Thomas), “Have you **believed** because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed**.”*

T/F? **“Seeing is believing?”** FALSE!

- Optical illusions
- “Photo-shop”
- *“devil comes as an angel of light...”*
- Do NOT trust your eyes (or your heart)

T/F? **“You must SEE to believe?”** FALSE!

- Jesus says so...
- To believe without seeing = blessing
- Believing without seeing = FAITH

T/F? **“Being blessed = easy street...”** FALSE!

- “Ma-kar-ee-os” = blessed
- Blessed means God’s favor is on you
- Martyrs are Ma-kar-ee-os-ed...
- “...blessed when persecuted in My name”

II.

Believing Beyond Books!

v.30 *“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;*

- We'll come back to this verse to close...
- **Read Hebrews 11:1-6 & 35ff**

III.

Believing Builds Believers!

v.31 *but these have been written **so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;
and
that **believing** you may **have life** in His name.*

A:

"but these have been written so that you will believe..."

The Seven Miracles In John

Water Into Wine (John 2:1-11)

Healing the Official's Son (John 4:43-54).

Healing at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9)

Feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-5).

Walking on the Water (John 6:16-25).

Healing Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41).

Raising Lazarus from Dead (John 11:1-44).

B:

"believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God..."

The 7 "I AM" Statements In John

1. The Bread Of Life
2. The Light Of The World
3. The Gate
4. The Good Shepherd
5. The Resurrection And The Life
6. The Way, The Truth, And The Life
7. The Vine

C:

“and that believing, you may have life, in His name.”

Jesus offers sinners abundant life & eternal life;
It is a quality of life, not a quantity of time.

Salvation is not resuscitation; it is resurrection

The lost sinner is not sick or weak;

he is dead. (Ephesians 2:1)

- Warren Wiersbe

"Life" (eternal)

John 1:12 = *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

John 3:16...

John 17:3 = *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

CLOSE:

Believing Beyond Books!

v.30 *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;*

Quote: We must not look at Thomas and the other disciples and envy them, as though the power of Christ's resurrection could never be experienced in our lives today. *That was why John wrote this Gospel*—so that people in *every* age could know that Jesus is God and that faith in Him brings everlasting life.

It is not necessary to "see" Jesus Christ in order to believe. Yes, it was a blessing for the early Christians to see their Lord and know that He was alive; but that is not what saved them. They were saved, not by seeing, but by believing. The emphasis throughout the Gospel of John is on *believing*. There are nearly 100 references in this Gospel to believing on Jesus Christ.

You and I today cannot see Christ, nor can we see Him perform the miracles (signs) that John wrote about in this book. But the record is there, and that is all that we need. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" ([Rom. 10:17](#); and note [1 John 5:9-13](#)). As you read John's record, you come face to face with Jesus Christ, how He lived, what He said, and what He did. All of the evidence points to the conclusion that He is indeed God come in the flesh, the Saviour of the world.

The signs that John selected and described in this book are proof of the deity of Christ. They are important. But sinners are not saved by believing in miracles; they are saved by believing on Jesus Christ. Many of the Jews in Jerusalem believed on Jesus because of His miracles, but He did not believe in them! ([John 2:23-25](#)) Great crowds followed Him because of His miracles ([John 6:2](#)); but in the end, most of them left Him ([John 6:66](#)). Even the religious leaders who plotted His death believed that He did miracles, but this "faith" did not save them ([John 11:47ff](#)).

Faith in His miracles should lead to faith in His Word, and to personal faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

All of the basic facts are here for us to read and consider. There is sufficient truth for any sinner to believe and be saved!

The *subject* of John's Gospel is "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." He presented a threefold proof of this thesis: our Lord's works, our Lord's walk, and our Lord's words.

John was not content simply to explain a subject. He was an evangelist who wanted to achieve an object. He wanted his readers to believe in Jesus Christ and be saved! He was not writing a biography to entertain or a history to enlighten. He was writing an evangel to change men's lives.

- Warren Wiersbe

"So... how about You?"

- **Adam & Eve:** Did God REALLY say...
- **Cain & Able:** Quality of your sacrifice/worship?
- **Noah:** Are you willing to build a ark?
- **Abraham:** Are you willing to GO & SACRIFICE your...
- **Isaac:** Are YOU willing to be sacrificed?
- **Jacob:** Are you done fighting with God?
- **Joseph:** Do you embrace God's sov prov?
- **Moses:** Where are you leading others?
- **Caleb/Spies:** Faith or Fear: which defines you?
- **Joshua:** Have you truly learned a lesson?
- **Judges:** Whose standards do you live by?
- **Esther:** Are you willing to literally perish?
- **Mordecai:** Are you willing to confront ALL?
- **Nehemiah:** Are you miraculously rebuilding?
- **Zerubbabel:** Are you focusing on God's glory?
- **Ezra:** Are you READY to go home?
- **David:** Do you see yourself in David?
- **Elijah:** Locked horns w/ any Baal-ites?
- **Elisha:** Any eyes you've helped open?
- **Isaiah:** Willing to serve untraditionally?
- **Jeremiah:** Do you recognize your CALLing?
- **Ezekiel:** Are you "manning your wall?"
- **Daniel:** Hungry lions/holy Lion of Judah?
- **3-Boys:** Do you have fiery-furnace-faith?
- etc...

New Testament

Who do you most align with:

In the dark unchurched Gentiles
In the dark “churchy” Jews...

Exposed to Light Gentiles...
Exposed to Light Jews...

Transformed by the Gospel Gentiles?
Transformed by the Gospel Jews?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

(everyday!)

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **18**All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19**that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21**For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*** REMEMBER:

Test yourselves... 2 Corinthians 13:5

Test others... John 7:24

(examples: Rich young ruler... Zacheus)

AND

Beware the Wolves!

(per Jesus & Paul...)

Romans 16:17-20:

17I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. **18**For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, **f** and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. **19**For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. **20**The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Psalms 55:21

His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

REMEMBER:

Jesus' first & faithful message was:

Repent AND Believe!

"He that believes on the Son has everlasting life; and he that believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him"

(John 3:36).

Let's Pray!