

## Basic Christianity – Bible Outline

### **Week 6 - What is a Christian? Part 2 - Believing**

#### **Review / Questions**

*Week 1:* Jesus' divine relationship to God through authority (1) as teacher, (2) over sickness and death, (3) over nature, (4) over evil spirits, (5) sin (6) people.

*Week 2:* Not only great teacher, miraculous healer and Son of God, but that he came to die in our place as a substitution. God punishes sin, reconcile us to God as ransom.

*Week 3:* Resurrection Jesus victorious over sin and death. Ensures we will be raised, judged by Jesus, divided into righteous and wicked where the division is eternal.

*Week 4:* We are saved, not of our own merit or righteousness, but of God's free and loving grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

*Week 5:* A Christian belongs to the Kingdom of God by first repenting of their sin. Repentance is to renounces sin, turns from it, and walk in obedience to Christ.

**Introduction** “*What is a Christian?*” A Christian is one who repents of their sin and believes the good news of Christ. We looked into repentance last week, but what does it mean to believe, to have faith in Christ? Does faith imply blind acceptance? Is faith simply for the irrational and the uneducated, or is true faith both rational and good? Is it simple belief, or is knowledge and trust involved as well?

#### **1. Faith – To Trust in Christ and His Word (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)**

*Read.* Faith (story of Jarius) is to trust in Jesus' words, even in times of obvious difficulty. Faith is based not on how we feel, but is rooted upon the historical facts of what Jesus has said and done. *Illustration* “Facts, Faith and Feeling”. If we rely too heavily upon our feelings, or close our eyes and try to walk blindly on our own, whatever “faith” we claim to have will be unsteady, weak, and destined to fail us.

#### **2. Faith – Trusting Despite Consequences (Mark 5:25-34)**

*Read.* Faith is reaching out to Jesus, just as the woman in the crowd did, yet without fear of being ridiculed or ashamed. Faith is to trust and follow Christ despite the consequences. Also evident in the passage we read last week from Mark 8:34,38.

#### **3. Faith – Unwavering Child-like Trust & Personal Commitment (Mk 10:13-16)**

*Read.* The kind of saving faith Jesus requires is not just based on theoretical knowledge, but personal commitment. It resembles the absolute unconditional and unwavering faith children put in their parents. *Illustration* “Blondin”.

#### **4. Faith – Understanding God's Assurance (John 5:24)**

*Read.* Faith is knowing that when we repent of our sin and believe in Christ, God accepts us. The Christian believer by faith will not face condemnation for their sin, but receive everlasting life.

#### **Summary**

Trust or true faith is not blind and rooted in mere feelings and superstitions, nor is it simply for the poor and uneducated. True faith is rooted in the historic facts of Jesus Christ. True saving faith includes **knowledge** (Jesus as divine Son of God who died for sin and rose from grave). Involves **approval** of what God has done in Christ as we acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a savior. Exhibits itself in **personal trust**, like that of a child to a parent. Trust that is without shame. Trust that God will count me guiltless when I repent of my sin and trust in him, and accept me into his eternal kingdom.

#### **Class Conclusion**

On the handout last week I listed some verses for you to look-up and asked the following question, “What gifts does God give to those who repent and believe?”

From:

1. Mark 1:8, we will have the *Holy Spirit*.
2. Mark 2:10, our sins will be *forgiven*. And,
3. Mark 10:30, we will have *eternal life*.

#### **Final Exhortation**

This is the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ – not just for me, or a neighbor, but this news is intended for you as well. Jesus calls on each one of us to repent and believe this good news. Failure to do so secures our everlasting destruction. And believing in the good news is a personal decision. No one can take it for you.

Two weeks ago I asked, “On what basis would God accept you into his kingdom?” The wrong answer is in ourselves and our own righteousness. So what are you going to do? Are you going to trust in the righteousness of Christ, or in your own filthy rags? Christ said, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father but by me.” We are all under a sentence of death. It's a sobering thought, but true. We will all die, and only God knows when. This isn't about a journey, this is about our eternity. There isn't a better deal somewhere else. Consider now who you will serve. Repent of your sin, and trust in Christ.

*What does this look like? (from Me? A Christian?)*

“A Christian, then, is someone who recognizes that Jesus Christ has the right to control his or her life. They recognize that they are rebels against Jesus Christ and deserve to be punished. A Christian believes that Jesus Christ died for him or her on the Cross taking the punishment which their sins deserved. A Christian is a person who has responded to God's call to repent. They have turned from rebelling against Jesus and submitted to Him. This person knows that he or she has been forgiven. They know that God has made them a new person and that Jesus lives in their life. They know this because they see their changed desires, attitudes and behavior. This person trusts God with his or her life.” (pg. 7)

*Will you become a Christian, today?*