

Believe in Jesus

Invocation

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Responsive Reading John 1:10-14

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To be a Christian is to believe in Christ. Christ is the Greek word for the long-awaited Messiah which is Hebrew for the Promised One. Jesus said,

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According to Jesus, salvation for mankind, comes from us believing in and following Jesus, our question should be, what does that look like?

To believe in Jesus is to believe who He was, The Creator of the world. He became a man and came to live with us to teach us how to worship Him and how to live and that we might be born again to be God's children.

Each of the Gospels are different accounts of Jesus life, death and resurrection. The Gospel of John was written by one of Jesus closest disciples. John's Gospel is a first hand account of Jesus. In John chapter 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. And in verse 14 it says, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. Jesus of Nazareth was the Word that John was referring to.

What evidences do we have to prove that He was who he was?
He calmed the storm with His hand. He fed 5000 men with all they wanted to eat and had 12 baskets of food left over and He only started with 5 loaves and 2 small fishes. He gave sight to the blind man. He walked most of the way across the Sea of Galilee. He healed every disease including leprosy and those who were demon possessed. He raised Lazarus back to life after he had been dead and in the grave for 4 days. To top this list, He raised Himself from the grave after 3 days and was alive on the earth and seen of hundreds. Today we have over 5000 texts that were written within 200 years of His death, stating what He did and what he taught and how He died and that He rose from the grave.

The calendar that most of the world accepts, the Julian Calendar, is based on Jesus coming. Christmas is based on the birth of Christ.

We have the evidence to believe in Jesus but to truly believe in Him is more than just an ascent to the truth.

Years ago I was told this story, I don't think it is true, but it makes a point. One of the world's best tight rope walkers had a rope strung across Niagara Falls. He wanted to make people think that he was somebody. He took the tire off of a wheel borrow and asked the crowd, "How many of you think I can push this across to the other side?" Everyone raised their hand. His next question was, Who believes it enough to get in the wheel borrow?" He had no takers,

after all, should we tempt the Lord? This is like people and God, to assent to the truth is one thing, but to put your life on the line for God is another. Peter put his life on the line for God and was nailed to the cross. Peter was not willing to deny Jesus, he was convinced that Jesus was who He said that he was. Jesus said in,

Matt 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. **33** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

God is not mocked. We need to be serious about Him and His work.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. **11** He came unto his own, and his own received him not. **12** But as many as received him, he gave them power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: **13** Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

To believe in Jesus is to become a son of God, the Creator of the universe. What a calling, what an opportunity, what a privilege? But there is more to it.

John 1: **13** Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John is saying that we can't do it, **God has to**. We must be born again, like Jesus said. God must create in us a different heart, one that loves Him and His ways.

Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart.

God sent Jesus to the earth to set up a system to get a family for Himself. The problem is that this new family must live in eternity and be without sin. The spirit of Heaven is that of love, peace, joy and forgiveness. The problem is that all the people in this world are born with a nature that is not of Heaven, to take them to Heaven would make Heaven like this world, a mess, full of sin and pain and suffering. For us to be able to exist in this new world we must be born again, and get a new nature that is in harmony with the place.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. God wants everyone to be His children but we have to fit in.

Jesus is talking with the woman at the well and He says,

John 4:23 The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. **24** God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth. God knows the heart, He can see a phony.

John 3:7 **You must be born again.** **8** The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound thereof, but cannot tell from where it comes, and where it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. We can see the wind moving the trees, so we know it is there.

But what do we see, the fruits of the Spirit growing in the lives of the new believer.

Gal 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patient, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance.

Being born again also brings a love for spiritual things and a new detest for the things of the world. New Christians enjoy spending time with other Christians. Their values and their friends change.

The fruits of the Spirit are the basic nature of Heaven.

Here is one of the problems that we will encounter. Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. God's design is that we grow to be perfect but the truth is that most people die before they grow to perfection so when we get to Heaven, there will be a motley crew, everyone in a different phase of spiritual growth. This is why we need to have forgiveness.

Saul was persecuting the early church, gathering the saints and having them whipped and killed, then God changed his life. He started building up the church and was persecuted himself. He was instrumental in starting the early church and added a huge portion to the New Testament which is the basis for our beliefs in Christ. There will be people in Heaven who died at the hand of Paul, who will need to forgive him.

God wants us to learn to be in unity with each other. He says how do you think you can get along with God who you haven't seen, when you can't even get along with men who you have seen. Part of the spirit of Heaven is unity, getting along in peace with each other, we need to practice that here.

Rev 22:2 It is talking about Heaven, The tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. Over the years and the many wars, nations have learned to hate their enemies from other countries but in Heaven we will all be one big happy family.

In closing, to be a Christian we need to believe in Jesus. There are many evidences that prove that Jesus came and died and was resurrected and what He taught and who He was, the Creator of this world. But belief in Jesus is more than just an assent to the truth that He was born, it is asking Him into our lives, asking Him to create in us a new heart so we can be born again and be one of His children. This is an incredible offer and opportunity for us. To believe in Jesus is to put our life on the line no matter what that may bring. He has given us everything we need to be His children, we simply need to follow. Jesus came to earth to set up a system to create a family for God. It requires us to go to Jesus and be born again and learn to live with each other and let the fruits of the Spirit grow in our lives and learn how to love God and others more. May God guide us all to that end.