

Countryside Bible Church

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There is a Judge



“*Something to Think About*” Series by Don ward
The word, the message, the truth regarding the gospel message could not be more important. There is a pervading spirit that says, “The word, the message, the truth is not that important. What’s important is the Person. It is the Person who saves me”.

That sounds right, what could be wrong? Such an attitude actually ignores the Person by ignoring what the Person Himself says.

There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. John 12:48. The gospel message is the word of Christ, the word the apostles taught. Romans 10:17. Which is the word of God. John 14:10.

The gospel of salvation is, after all, a message. It must be preached and it must be believed. How crucial is this message? It is God’s power.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18.

It is no less than God’s power to save those who believe.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 1:16.

The bible often calls Christians “*believers*”. God provided the sacrifice, Jesus paid the price, yet we must believe the message. Jesus did not say, “Take me out and give me to people”. Rather, *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.*

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15-16.

Truth is therefore relevant. Those who are cavalier about knowing and believing the truth may be opening themselves up to further delusion- delusion from God Himself!

... They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie. 2 Thes. 2:10-11.

There may be power in positive thinking. But positive thinking is not powerful enough to save us from the penalty of death. Nor is the power of a prestigious church or leader, even when well meaning.

Our salvation does not rest in the approval or disapproval of others. It is not secured by consensus but by "belief in the truth".

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 2 Thes. 2:13

A prime example of the problem is actually given above. It says, "they shall believe the lie". Not a lie but "the lie". What is "the lie"? It most likely refers to the original lie that started the whole problem. The lie the serpent told Eve. "You will not surely die". Genesis 3:4

This lie has served as the premise of almost every false religion since the world began. It flew in the face of what God had told the first couple,

"... you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:17

It still does. God's message has always been, "The wages of sin is death", Romans 6:23 and "The soul who sins is the one who will die". Ez.18:4, 20.

Yet this same lie has become a powerful tradition in Christendom as well. You cannot be exposed long to Christianity before you hear it. "You don't really die". It is so common people often do not grasp what is actually being said. Reword it slightly and you will see what it is saying. "Really, you don't die".

When applied to Jesus, which it is, this tradition nullifies the gospel of Christ's atonement. Consider 1Cor.15:1-3 (abbreviated). Paul says,

I declare unto you the gospel . . . By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. [3] For I delivered unto you first of all . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

Now what would you think of me if I told you, "Christ did not really die" or "Really, Christ did not die"? Don't worry. I would never tell you such a thing because I would not touch that with a ten-foot pole.

Such a tradition could not be more diametrically opposed to the clear word of scripture. And in this case, it could not be more directly opposed to the gospel message by which we must be saved.

We might paraphrase John 5:12 and say, "He who believes the words of the Savior, has the Savior. He who does not believe His message, does not have the Messenger".

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<http://www.countrysidebiblechurch.org>

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