



Acts 16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.

Many people are confident that they are saved because they believe on Jesus. They are very serious about being believers. Jesus is the most important thing in their lives. They are willing and ready to witness for Him. They will even make sacrifices for Him and bear scorn and ridicule for being His disciples. The sad thing is that the Jesus they believe in, love, and follow is not the Jesus of the Bible. In spite of all their sincere trust and service, they are *not* saved.

Does this strike you as harsh and judgmental? Friend, it is not our intent to wound or to unchristianize anyone, but let us face reality: if people are deceived, they deserve to learn that they are deceived. Then, if they prefer their deception above the truth, at least they had the opportunity to know the truth.

Is your Jesus the Bible Jesus? Today many follow a "Jesus" who overlooks their sins; one whose power is great, but not great enough to give them victory over their sins. They follow a "Jesus" who came to earth to set up a kingdom but was thwarted by His so-called friends, a "Jesus" who has to come back to earth a second time to establish that kingdom. They follow a "Jesus" who does not really care what one believes, as long as one believes. "After all," they say, "we are all going to the same Heaven." They follow a "Jesus" who only expects each of us to do his or her best. They follow a "Jesus" who is too good to send anyone to hell.

Friend, do you recognize the "Jesus" I have been describing? If this is your "Jesus," you have not believed on the Bible Jesus. Since you have not believed on the Bible Jesus—the real Jesus—you have not been saved.

The devil likes to complicate this matter of being saved, this matter of believing on Jesus. Yet, the Apostle Paul spoke of the simplicity that is in Christ and how he feared that people's minds would be corrupted regarding that simplicity (2 Corinthians 11:3). Surely people's minds have been corrupted concerning the simplicity of saving faith. Let us look at the Bible Jesus. Are you willing to examine your Jesus by the Bible One?

Our first point was that people believe in a "Jesus" who overlooks their sins, whose power cannot quite give real victory over sin. Is this the Bible Jesus? No! The Bible says that Jesus would "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). *From* their sins, not *in* their sins. Can you save someone *from* drowning and save them *in* their drowning at the same time? Can you save someone *from* a fire and save them *in* the fire? Of course not, and neither does Jesus save us *from* our sins while at the same time saving us *in* our sins!

Remember about the simplicity that is in Christ. This is not complicated. The Bible Jesus came to save His people *from* their sins, and that is exactly what He does. The Apostle Paul said Jesus was able to save "to the uttermost" those who "come unto God by him" (Hebrews 7:25). That is saving to the fullest extent, friend. Again I ask, is your Jesus the Bible Jesus?

Our second point was, people believe in a "Jesus" who came to set up His kingdom but did not get it done, so He has to try again. Is this the Bible Jesus? No! The Bible says that if Jesus "cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you" (Matthew 12:28). So did Jesus cast out devils by the Spirit of God? Of course! In Luke 4:18 the Bible Jesus said the Spirit of God anointed Him to preach the Gospel, bringing deliverance to the captives. So the kingdom had come at that time. Jesus was setting it up during His first advent. Some people say that He set up the Kingdom of God at His first advent and will set up the Kingdom of Heaven at His second advent, or vice versa. By reading Matthew 4:17 and Mark 1:15, we can clearly see that the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are the same thing.

Our third point was that many believe in a "Jesus" who does not care what we believe, as long as we believe. Is this the Bible Jesus? No! The Bible says in Mark 13:22-23 that Jesus warned of "false Christs and false prophets [who] shall rise . . . to seduce [them] But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you" Again, this is not complicated. The Bible Jesus cares what you believe. If you believe in a "Jesus" other than the Bible Jesus, you will go to hell thinking you are going to Heaven.

Jesus cares about you and does not want that to happen! That is why you are reading this tract. There are many false Christs around who set forth many ways to "make it in." That is the reason nominal Christianity is so confused today, but God is not the "author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Our fourth point was, many believe in a "Jesus" who only expects us to do our best and overlooks the rest. After all, the attitude of man is that "nobody's perfect." Is this the Bible Jesus? No! The Bible says that Jesus commanded us to "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Now, that is perfect!

You may say, "That's impossible!" I will let the Bible Jesus answer that. Concerning being saved, Jesus told us in Mark 10:27, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." Remember that we said Jesus—the Bible Jesus—would save His people from their sins! Certainly, we cannot make ourselves perfect, but God does not ask us to. He asks

us to believe that He can. Believe on the Bible Jesus and thou shalt be saved—to the uttermost—and "stand perfect and complete" in Him (Colossians 4:12).

We can also see that the Bible Jesus does not just expect us to do our best, overlooking the rest, by reading Isaiah 64:6, which says, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags." Nothing we can do is sufficient to save us. Our best is not good enough. So Jesus does not ask us to try. He only asks us to believe in Him.

Second Corinthians 5:21 tells us, "For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." In Romans 10:10 we read, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." When one believes in the Bible Jesus, he quits trying to be good enough and lets Christ work the righteousness of God in him. Is your Jesus the Bible Jesus?

Finally, many believe in a "Jesus" who is too good to send anyone to hell. In many funerals the deceased are "preached into Heaven," so to speak. Many preachers in nominal Christianity will tell you that no one goes to hell. They base this on God's love and mercy, but they are wrong. God's love provided a plan of redemption. God's love warns us to flee from the wrath of God and to accept that redemption. In Ezekiel 33:11 God's mercy pleads with us to "turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" The fact remains that if we do not turn, we will die.

Is it the Bible Jesus who takes everyone to Heaven, regardless of the life they lived? No! The Bible says that Jesus will say "unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). Also, some of His severest woes fell on those who claimed to be God's people when they were not. (Read Matthew, Chapter 23, and Luke, Chapter 11.)

The truth of the matter of God's goodness is that God is too good to take sinners to Heaven; by "sinners" we refer to all who have not believed on the Bible Jesus and been saved from their sins to the uttermost. It includes all who have believed in the wrong "Jesus."

God is too good to take sinners to Heaven! If He did that, He would be rewarding evil, and to reward evil would mar His own holiness. He will never do that! Psalm 37:38 tells us that "the transgressors shall be destroyed together." They will never see inside God's Heaven.

I ask you, dear friend, is your Jesus the Bible Jesus? The "Jesus" proclaimed by the masses in Christendom today is not the Jesus of the Bible. If you believe in a lesser "Jesus," you are not saved. It is just that simple. No matter how sincere you are, no matter how devoted you are, no matter how fervent your love is, no matter how long you have been a disciple, if you are trusting in a "Jesus" other than that of the Bible, you are only an idolater.

Take your Bible and read everything it says about Jesus; read in the prophecies, in the Gospels, and in the writings of the Apostles. Nowhere in there will you find a "Jesus" who is soft on sin, who accepts just anything, who overlooks our failures, and who in effect merely gives people a license whereby they can sin and get away with it. You will not find a "Jesus" whose purpose for coming was thwarted, who had to postpone His plans because someone got in His way. No! The Bible Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords now. He is reigning in the hearts of true believers today.

In the Bible you will not find a "Jesus" who does not care what church you go to. In Matthew 16:18 the Bible Jesus said that He would build a church the gates of hell could not prevail against. That is the one He wants you in. Any church that allows sin in the life of a Christian is not the church of the Bible. You will not find a "Jesus" in God's Word who will be satisfied with your best. The Bible Jesus will take you at your worst, if you will repent and believe in Him, so that He can fulfill the righteousness of the law in you (see Romans 8:3-4).

You will not find a Bible Jesus who is "too good" to send a soul to hell. The Bible Jesus is loving and merciful, but He is also just and holy. His goodness leads us to repentance, which is a turning away from sin (see Romans 2:4). The Bible Jesus' goodness provided a way to be saved. Friend, He is doing His best to get you to Heaven. However, if you fall short of meeting His righteous demands, you will go to hell. He is good enough to let you know that. He is good enough to let you know what it means to truly believe on Him so that you can be saved. The rest is up to you.

Published by:

The Church of God, God's Acres
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, OH 43055

www.GodsAcres.org
www.GospelTrumpeter.com