

# **What Difference Does It Make?**

**“Prove All Things; hold fast to that which is good.” 1**

**Thessalonians 5: 21**

**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4: 1**

# Division in the Religious World

- *Different beliefs*
- *Different doctrines*
- *Different practices*
- *Different churches*

Jesus Prayed for  
Unity in Truth in  
**John 17**

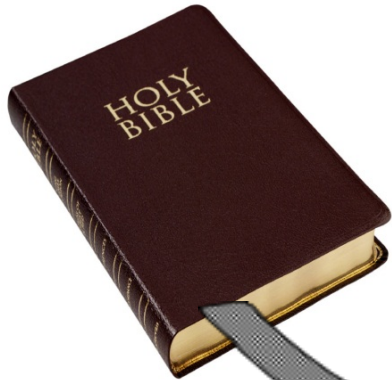
**Does it make a difference about any of this?  
Does It Make A Difference What One  
Believes?**

# I. Popular Concepts



- Faith alone - *“Just believe in the Lord”*
- *“Sincerity is all that matters”*
- *“Join the church of your choice”*
- Good moral people = Christians
- *“It does not matter what you believe”*

# II. A Barrier To The Gospel



**The Gospel  
(1Cor. 15: 1-4)  
can't get  
through – Sin  
Blocks the  
Seed( Luke  
8:11) of the  
Word**

**One of  
The  
Devil's  
Most  
Effective  
Tools!**

- **No need to study...**
- **Issues are trivial...**
- **Feel comfortable...**
- **Have a church so – One Church As Good As the Other.....**

# III. It Makes A Difference What One Believes!

The popular concept will not work in other areas:



## Investments

If you invest in a company  
*Believing it's a good investment*  
Could easily lose all your money!



## Health

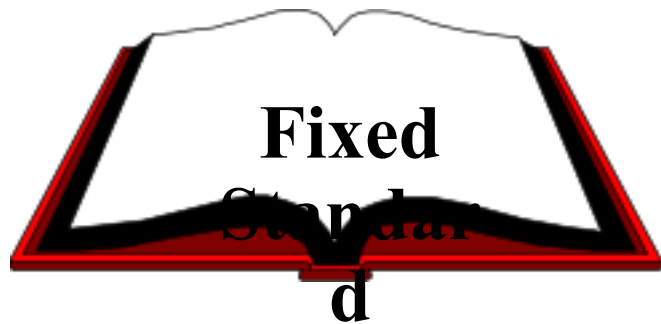
If you drink a glass of liquid  
*Believing it is water*  
You will die if it is really poison!

## If One Must Believe Anything, Then It Makes A Difference

- **God - Hebrews 11:6** – “But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
- **Christ - John 8:21, 24** – “Then said Jesus again until them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins, whither I go, ye cannot come. (V24) I said thererfore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if you believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
- **Truth - John 8:32; Gal.1:6-9** – “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”
  - Gal. 1 – 6-9 – (Lets Read Together)

# An Objective Standard

A standard that is based on factual measurements, in the absence of a biased judgement or analysis or opinions.



Makes A  
Difference  
What is Believed

**Oracles of God - 1 Peter 4:11**

**Word of God - 1 Thessalonians 2:13**

**Inspired Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**Words chosen by the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor.  
2:9-13**

# 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

**Lie**

**Truth**

**Deceived - v. 10**

**Do Not love truth - v. 10**

**Deluded - v. 11**

**Believe lie - v. 11**

**Not believe truth - v. 12**

**Pleasure in unright. - v. 12**



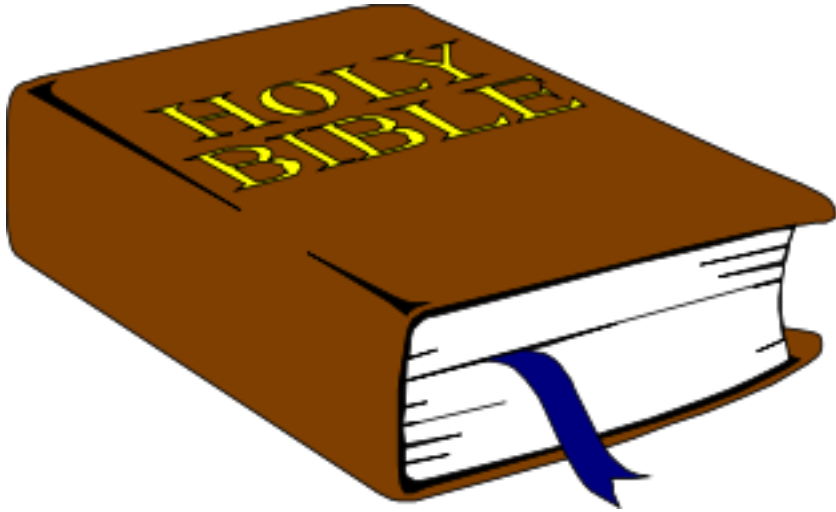
**Perish - v. 10**  
**Condemned - v. 12**

**Love truth - v. 10**  
**Believe truth - v. 12**



**Saved - v. 10**





# **Our Practice Must Be Authorized in the Word of God**

- According to the pattern - **Hebrews 8:5**
- In the name of the Lord - **Colossians 3:17**
- Within the doctrine of Christ - **2 John 9**
- By the same rule - **Philippians 3:16**

# The Difference It Makes

## *Our Practice Affects Our:*

**Our Fellowship with God – 2 John 9** – “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

**Eternal Salvation – Matthew 7: 22-23** – “Many will say in that day, Lord have we not prophesied in the name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works. (v23) and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, you that work iniquity.”

# V. Conclusion

## If It Doesn't Make Any Difference

- Doesn't matter *whether* one believes or not.
- Doesn't make any difference

whether one believes the

## If It Does Make A Difference

- I need to know the truth
  - John 8:32
- I need to study & examine what I am taught
  - Acts 17:11
- I need to obey the truth
  - 1 Peter 1:22
- I need to watch my steps
  - Ephesians 5:15

# What Must I Do To Be Saved?

## **Hear The Gospel – Romans 10: 17**

“Faith Comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”

## **Believe The Gospel – Mark 16: 16**

“ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned.”

## **Repent of Sins – Luke 13: 3**

“Repent or You will Perish”

## **Confess Christ – Romans 10: 9-10**

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteous; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

## **Be Baptized – Acts 2: 38**

“Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”