

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1565

February 16, 2025

John 8:31, “*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed.*”

So many today teach that belief only is enough. Belief is an overall encompassing term that includes many things. We must also have our sins washed away in baptism, attend services, pray, sing, give of our money, and be faithful all of our days.

We understand plainly how some terms encompass many other things. If someone says, “come to our university, and you’ll receive the best engineering degree in the state,” you understand that when you are told to “come to our university” they are not just saying to arrive and appear on campus. If you do that, you have indeed come to the university, but you know there is much more to the degree than that. To “come” to the university means to attend classes, pass exams, write papers, and ultimately graduate.

In the same way when Jesus says to believe on Him, it’s not just acknowledging Jesus and Him as LORD. It’s to obey and serve Him all of our days.

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Sunday 9am,10am,12pm; 6pm (Online) — Wednesday 6pm (Online)

In John 8 some of the Jews did believe on Jesus. In speaking to those who did, Jesus told them that if they continued in His word, they would be His disciples indeed. It was not just enough to believe. They had to continue in His word. It was possible to believe but yet not continue in His word. They then would not be His disciples.

In Acts 16:30 the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” Verse 31 plainly says, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*” This is a true statement, but we must examine what “believe” means. Was this the end of what he needed to do?

The Philippian jailer had been told to believe and he would be saved. Acts 16:32 says, “*And they spake unto him the word of the Lord...*” If belief was all that was needed, what other words of the LORD needed to be said? We can see he was obviously taught about baptism. Verse 33 says he and all his were baptized that night.

Many people believe in Jesus but will be lost. They know He exists, but belief is an encompassing term that means much more than just to acknowledge Him as LORD. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*” Yes, belief saves, but it’s a belief that is full of many actions and a lifetime of serving the LORD.

Acts 16:30 tells us to believe and you’ll be saved. I Peter 3:21 says, “*The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*” If we are told that belief saves and we are also told that baptism saves, which is it? It’s both, and all the other things we need to do such as repenting of our sins (Acts 2:38), confessing the LORD (Matthew 10:32-33), and living faithfully all our days. (Revelation 2:10)

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News

—Continue to remember **Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Richard & Meg Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Rick Gibbs, Sandy Duncan, Jerry Reynolds, Betty Franklin, Lauren Candela, Alice Vanderstoep, Carol Riffle and Stewart Franklin.**

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In our automobiles, what successfully gets us from one place to another. Is it the engine, the tires, or the transmission? Not one of these alone will make your drive successful. These all together with numerous other parts makes the automobile function.

Likewise, belief alone, baptism alone, confession alone, will not save. They all have to be part of our obedience. Contrary to what many teach, works are required. Works do not save (Ephesians 2:8-9, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.*” James plainly says in James 2:20, “*But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*” And just six verses later James writes, “*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*” Our faith is like a dead body if you do not have works. It’s a dead faith.

If we are told that works do not save, but yet faith without works is dead, what does this mean? It takes faith as well as works. One without the other is incomplete and cannot save us. Just as in the above illustration of a vehicle not functioning with one of the main components missing, we cannot serve the LORD if we leave out faith, baptism, works, or any of the things the LORD asks of us.

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Sunday, February 9, 2025		
Classes	8	Luke 22:39-48
Preaching	24	James 2:1-11
Contribution	\$751.00	
Afternoon	8	Revelation 12:1-17; Genesis 31:1-21

Bible Quiz

The woman John saw was clothed with what?

Last Week’s Answer—The ark of His testament (Revelation 11:19)

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It’s not hard to see how that “believe” encompasses many things. It’s not a single, one-time action or even a lifetime of simply believing. It’s doing all that the LORD has commanded us. Believing puts you on the right path, but it’s not the destination. Study the steps in the box below and you can easily see how many things work together to bring us to eternal salvation.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)