



Is What You Believe That Big of a Deal?

2 Timothy 4:3: (NASB) *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires...*

Christianity is about transformation - at least, that is what it is *supposed* to be about. The problem is when we look at Christianity, what we often see is something else, something different. In some ways it seems as though Christianity has fallen into the trap of a competitive evangelism recruiting as many new believers as possible. Now wait a minute! Aren't we supposed to do that? Yes we are, but *how* are we supposed to do it? What do we believe the name of Jesus saves us from? What do we believe a Christian life should look like? What do we believe is God's plan for the masses? Do any of these things really matter? Should we just be focusing on being good, honest and loving?



Our ultimate answer to the question...YES! What you believe REALLY DOES MATTER!



We start by looking at the context of today's theme text. The Apostle Paul's life is almost over as he writes a personal letter to Timothy of Christian love and responsibility.

This was Paul's dying charge:

2 Timothy 4:1: (NASB) *I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:*

Paul was handing over responsibility to Timothy to carry on the work of the Gospel. The solemnity of this charge was based on the highest authority upon which Paul could call - *in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing (his second presence) and His kingdom.*



Gandalf and Galadriel, *Why Bilbo, The Hobbit*

- (Galadriel) *Mithrandir, why the Halfling?* (world events)
- (Gandalf) *I do not know. Saruman believes that it is only great power that can hold evil in check. But that it is not what I've found. I've found it is the small things, everyday deeds of normal folk that keeps the darkness at bay - simple acts of kindness and love. Why Bilbo Baggins? Perhaps it is because I am afraid, and he gives me courage.*

The character Bilbo Baggins was a simple character who did what he was supposed to.





Why Timothy? He was not known as a great orator and did not have the credentials of the Apostle Paul. But he was a simple, driven Christian who needed to have a boost of confidence to take responsibility. He was trustworthy.

Paul, as Timothy's mentor, told him to preach the word with deep conviction and fearlessness:

2 Timothy 4:2: (NASB) *preach the word; be **ready** <2186> in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

Be ready: Strong's #2186 ephistemi (ef-is'-tay-mee); to stand upon, i.e. be present (in various applications, friendly or otherwise, usually literal)

Be ready - be in the moment, ready to do whatever it is you have to

In season - when the opportunity arises, when it is convenient

Out of season - unseasonable, when it is inconvenient

Reprove - admonish/convict

Rebuke - censure, make sure those following are holding up to the standard

Exhort - call near, invite

Great patience - forbearance, refraining from enforcement of something that is due - have a benevolent sense about you

Instruction - the act of indoctrinating - teach them how to think

Why is this charge so fundamentally important?

2 Timothy 4:3: (NASB) *For the time will come when they will not **endure** <430> **sound** <5198> **doctrine** <1319>...*

The time will come - a clearly prophetic statement - prophesying what?

Not enduring sound doctrine -

Endure: Strong's #430 anechomai (an-ekh'-om-ahee); to hold oneself up against, put up with

Sound: Strong's #5198 hugiaino (hoog-ee-ah'-ee-no); to have sound health, i.e. be well (in body); figuratively, to be uncorrupt

Doctrine: Strong's #1319 didaskalia (did-as-kal-ee'-ah); instruction (the function or the information)

Satan wants to corrupt God's truth to prevent the development of His true church. Paul warns us this had already begun in his day, so these words are important to us now.

When people do not hold themselves up against sound doctrine, who is in control? Is the purity of the original teaching in control, or are those who are supposed to be taught in control?

Not enduring sound doctrine is the great "hijacking" of Christianity.



What reason could there possibly be to *not* want to stand with truth?

2 Timothy 4:3: (NASB) *...but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will **accumulate** <2002> for themselves teachers in accordance to their own **desires** <1939>,*

Wanting to have their ears tickled -

Tickled: (Greek Lexicon) scratch, tickle, wanting to hear something pleasant

In other words, you want to hear what you want to hear.

Accumulate teachers according to their desires -

Accumulate: Strongs #2002 episo-reuo ep-ee-so-ryoo'-o; to heap up, accumulate in piles

In other words, they will listen to those who only say what they want to hear.

Many Christian churches today say whatever they need to in order to bring in parishioners at the expense of what the true Gospel says.

Desires: Strongs #939 epithumia (ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah); a longing (especially for what is forbidden)

The day will come, according to the Apostle, when these things would come - teachers whose followers want them to feed the desires of the followers. This is our world today! Is Christianity just about feeling good? Once we begin down a self-serving path, we create a momentum that is hard to stop. This momentum forms a vortex of emotions, and we develop an insatiable need to be fed what we feel we want.

The end result:

2 Timothy 4:4: (NASB) *and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

*By accumulating to ourselves teachers who will **tickle our ears** and tell us only what we want to hear, we turn our ears away from truth towards fiction as though it were truth. This can be very emotional and fleshly. There is a conscious choice made to disbelieve truth and embrace fiction in its place.*

Boast in weakness rap, *Why I Hate Religion But Love Jesus*, Jeff Bethke

- *See, the problem with religion is that it never gets to the core. It's just behavior modification like a long list of chores.*
- *Like let's dress up the outside and make it look nice and neat, but it's funny that's what they use to do to mummies while the corpse rots underneath.*
- *Now I ain't judging. I'm just saying, quit putting on a fake look because there's a problem if people only know you're a Christian by your Facebook.*
- *I mean, in every other aspect of life you know that logic's unworthy. It's like saying you play for the Lakers just because you bought a jersey.*
- *You see, this was me, too, but no one seemed to be on to me. Acting like a church kid while addicted to pornography.*
- *See, I spent my whole life building this facade of neatness but now that I know Jesus, I boast in my weakness.*



Paul's specific instructions to Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:5: (NASB) *But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

Be sober - (do not just act that way) be discreet, calm and collected in spirit even when things are not going well

Endure hardship - suffer evils, be afflicted

Evangelize - be employed in spreading the Gospel

Our job in life is to not only spread the Gospel, but to have it consume our every day. This is more than just being a "good person."

Fulfill your ministry:

2 Timothy 1:5-8: (NASB) *⁵For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. ⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,*

Paul reminded Timothy he had a generational legacy of those who were spiritually-minded. For Timothy, fulfilling his ministry meant leading, speaking, standing and suffering for the truth of the true Gospel. He was entrusted with it, as the Apostle Paul would be taken off the scene in death. Paul was instructing him to be a true follower of Christ as well as a leader.

What was it that Timothy was supposed to stand for? The truth of the Gospel - what it taught and not just how it made you feel.

Let's make a personal application. What do YOU believe about being Christian?

Belief: What does a Christian life look like?

(See Bonus Material for more details.)

Responsibilities of those beliefs:



- Is Christianity about being given status or giving away status?
- Is it about the blessings of wealth or a wealth of blessings?
- Is it about a life of personal comforts received or a life of spiritual overruling believed?
- Is it a life of striving to get what you want or learning to want what you get?
- Is it a life of dreams coming true or a life of the discipline to see it all the way through? Christianity is not a fairy tale.



THE Christian Questions BELIEF SYSTEM

WHAT A TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE LOOKS LIKE



**TO BE
A TRUE
CHRISTIAN,
WE MUST...**

Deny ourselves:

Matthew 16:24-26: (KJV) ²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

True Christianity means the willingness to trade my temporary and faulty will for the will of God through Jesus!

What you believe translates into who you will become.

What else besides denying ourselves “must” we do to be a “true Christian”?

Separate ourselves. True Christians are called to a specific role with specific responsibilities that we need training for!

1 Peter 2:9-12: (NASB) ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This lists a lot of roles or “job descriptions.”

Because of these specific roles and the necessary training, we are also called upon to be different:

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. ¹²Keep your behavior **excellent** <2570> among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Do people see a difference in behavior between us and the rest of the crowd?

Do we rise above? We have to be high-minded in terms of spiritual things and different in Christ-likeness.

Excellent: Strong's #2570 kalos (kal-os'); beautiful, valuable or virtuous



**TO BE
A TRUE
CHRISTIAN,
WE MUST...**

Bear each other's burdens:

Galatians 6:1-5: (NASB) ¹Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing he deceives himself. ⁴But each one must examine his own work, and then he

will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. ⁵For each one will bear his own load.

Earlier we talked about the great “hijacking” of Christianity. These last three items are a good example:

Deny ourselves - False Christianity says: Deny yourself? God wants you to be happy. He wants you to have, hold, be, accomplish and see success. These things are good for your Christianity. This attitude waters down our being willing/able to walk away from earthly ambitions.

Separate ourselves - We believe Christianity is “come as you are,” but then expect to change - be willing to separate yourselves from the rest of the world - and come up higher. False Christianity says: Come as you are because Jesus loves you, and then stay as you are. You do not need to change.

Bear one another’s burdens - False Christianity: Because everyone is okay the way they are, we might be trying to help others bear burdens they should not have because they are against Scripture. Jesus dying on the cross bore the burdens of the entire world. We cannot do what he did, but we can help bear the burdens of our brother or sister without taking away their responsibilities.

We are not only to be fully accountable for taking care of our own responsibilities, we also must be aware of and willing to contribute to the bearing of the weight of others’ responsibilities as well!

What if someone professes Christianity but does not do these things? What if they are a good, righteous and loving person but have no interest in separation, self-denial, transformative spirituality and so forth? Do we look at them as “false” Christians? How would Jesus treat them?



🔊) All is theological, *The Importance of Doctrine, Desiring God*

- *Everything we do is theological. Everything is based on implicit or explicit theology, and so it’s not exactly fair to say that people are moving away from theology. They’re just not looking at it. It’s not smart, well thought out, reflective; it’s not rooted in historical theology, it’s not rooted in biblical theology. But I mean, everything we do is based on views of God, human nature. I think theology doctrine is absolutely crucial and the more you dig down deep and get your theology straight and get your theology rich and get your theology experienced, it guides your “doing” church.*

We are driven by something, so it should be something higher. Our theology must be true and godly.

Back to our question on a “false” Christian...

Galatians 6:7-10: (NASB) ⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

We do not have to judge someone’s character because God has that handled and does the judging.



Rather than focus on judgment of another's character, Galatians tells us what to do:

⁹Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

This *household of faith* includes those called to be Christ's as well as those who appreciate the call but are not called. They love Jesus but do not want to separate, sacrifice, bear one another's burdens and so forth. We are to love them, respect them and serve them! Some are "fans" of Jesus but not true followers. True footstep followers of Christ are called disciples, sons and bride of Christ - all part of a much larger household. We have an obligation to those who may not be living up to what we believe is true Christianity, but we do not treat them with less respect or integrity. We should love the fact they appreciate Christ.

We live in a time when the general body of Christianity does not endure sound doctrine. They do not measure themselves against pure teaching, but rather against something less, something easier and more convenient and perhaps more entertaining - something that brings you away from true Christianity.

The Apostle Paul was emphatic in his instructing Timothy to not only know the TRUTH of the Gospel but to stand up for it, to preach it, to use it to correct and encourage and to use it to spread hope. Timothy was told that there would be many who would have no interest in truth but would only pursue status using the name of Christ.

We also must focus on what we believe to be the truth of the Gospel based on God's Holy Word.



A CQ App user asks: What Scripture do you base the division of *the household of faith* into different classes?

The picture is of a household and not, for example, son-ship or the bride, pictures of just the footstep followers of Jesus. The household implies a wider range of individuals doing different things. (Although specific Scriptures were not cited, see Acts 10:7 - Cornelius' household had family and servants.



Ephesians 2:19 - the household of faith. Ephesians 2:19 - the household of God. 2 Timothy 4:19 - the household of Onesiphorus.

A CQ App user asks: How do you take care of yourself and your family if you have no ambition to succeed?

Our ambitions should not be earthly, but we must do the things necessary to support our families, as instructed by the Bible. Years ago, Rick and Jonathan worked at the same cabinet shop. Rick's salary assumed a 40-hour work week but in reality he worked more than 60 hours a week. His ambition was to do a good job but also serve God. He did not mind the work because it supported his family. Earthly ambitions should be channeled to the glory of God.



98 percenters, *Going Against the Crowd Flow, Money Ideal*

- *98 percent of the population go with the crowd. Whatever is in, whatever is popular is where their interest lies. 98 percent of the population sometimes never stand back and look at a matter critically. They always want to be the accepted one. They always want to be the popular one, and there's nothing wrong with being popular, there's nothing wrong with wanting to fit in, but it becomes a problem when it's a detriment to yourself as a person - when it's not stuff that you can afford. When you're breaking the bank just to fit in. That's not sensible at all.*

We are looking at the principle expressed here - and not the monetary aspect. Going along with the crowd will not generally bring you to a place of success in money management and the same principle applies in Christianity. To follow along with the big crowd is generally not what Jesus was talking about.

Too often we treat our Christianity with a nod of agreement rather than really believing it.

Belief: What do YOU believe about prayer?

Responsibilities of those beliefs:

- Does God answer prayer?
- Must you be a Christian to have your prayers heard?
- Does God ignore some prayers?

Let's take a brief look at prayer in the Bible.
Our belief on this subject includes:



Asking God to hear your prayer certainly implies that He may not:

Psalm 102:1-7: (NRSV) ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you. ²Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.

There is great honesty and humility in prayers that will be heard by God:

³For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace. ⁴My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread. ⁵Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my skin. ⁶I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places. ⁷I lie awake; I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.

Be open for and seek righteousness before you pray!

Proverbs 15:28-29: (NRSV) ²⁸The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil. ²⁹The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

The further we travel on the path of godliness, the more we align ourselves with God:

Proverbs 15:6-9: (NRSV) ⁶In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked. ⁷The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the minds of fools. ⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright



is His delight. ⁹The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves the one who pursues righteousness.

Living faithfully and righteously enables our prayers to be heard. One prominent example was Cornelius. His prayers were stored up until such time the Gospel call went out to the Gentiles. Then his prayers were answered.

His heart was in accordance with the will of God:

Acts 10:31: (ESV) *Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.*

Jesus even remarked on the Father hearing him:

John 11:40-43: (NRSV) ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God? ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me. ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out!

Jesus said this out loud so the glory would go to God and not himself. This is a dramatic picture of the power of prayer.

Examples of God's attention and answers being focused only in certain directions:

James 5:16: (KJV) *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent** <1754> prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Effectual Fervent: Strongs #1754 *energeo* (en-erg-eh'-o); to be active, efficient

Prayer should not be recited by rote; it should be energetic and in the present moment.

1 Peter 3:12: (KJV) *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*



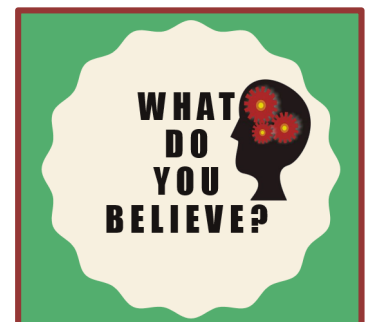
A caller from Connecticut comments that her son was hit by a van this May and required two major operations. God gave her strength to take care of her son and most importantly, her son forgave the woman who hit him. Prayer has been important to her during this time. She feels great peace now.

**What we believe about salvation
should really control our lives, so what do we believe?**

Belief: What do you believe about salvation and punishment?

Responsibilities of those beliefs:

- What does salvation look like?
- Must you be a Christian to obtain salvation?
- What does punishment look like?
- Is every non-Christian in line for punishment?
- What happens to those we mentioned earlier - "fans" of Jesus?





A prison for your mind, blue or red pill, The Matrix (1999)

- (Morpheus) *The Matrix is everywhere. It is all around us, even now in this very room. You can see it when you look out your window or when you turn on your television. You can feel it when you go to work, when you go to church, when you pay your taxes. It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.*
- (Neo) *What truth?*
- (Morpheus) *That you are a slave, Neo. Like everyone else, you are born into bondage, born into a prison that you cannot smell, or taste or touch - a prison for your mind.*



The “matrix” can be compared to how we are born into Satan’s world of sin. It is difficult to find truth with this shroud of sin and death Satan has brought upon us.

Please refer to the CQ programs, “Who Gets Saved?” from January 9, 2011, and “Did Jesus Die for All or Just a Few?” from August 18, 2012.

Our belief on salvation includes:

Salvation - worldwide salvation begins with justice:

1 Corinthians 15:20-22: (NRSV) ²⁰*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.*

Death came through a human being named Adam, so death came to all men. No one is exempt from that sentence. But so, too, did a resurrection come through a man, Jesus. All die in Adam, all in Christ will be made alive. That does not exclude anyone and is perfect justice. God’s justice will prevail.



Salvation - worldwide salvation is built upon obedience. By God’s grace, the obedience of the few can affect the destiny of the many!

Genesis 22:15-18: (NKJV) ¹⁵*Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶and said: By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*

Abraham was given a very specific promise and a tremendous privilege. His descendants would become powerful and numerous like the sand on the seashore and stars of heaven.

In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed - God’s further response to Abraham’s obedience was that his family (both physical and spiritual - see Galatians 3:29) would eventually bless the entire world.

This promise was given for the purpose of blessing, because justice was met by Jesus. Abraham is a great example of obedience and faith being rewarded.



Salvation - worldwide salvation is the will and desire of God:

1 Timothy 2:3: (NKJV) ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

To come to the knowledge of the truth - the Greek word for knowledge here means "full disclosure." This is a deep-seated knowledge of God's will and His way - not readily available in this world today. Notice this coming to full knowledge happens AFTER all men are saved.

 **Would your church let him in, *Why I Hate Religion But Love Jesus*, Jeff Bethke**

- *Because if grace is water then the church should be an ocean.*
- *It's not a museum for good people, it's a hospital for the broken.*
- *Which means I don't have to hide my failure, I don't have to hide my sin because it doesn't depend on me, it depends on Him.*
- *See, when I was God's enemy and certainly not a fan, He looked down and said I want that man.*
- *Which is why Jesus hated religion and for it he called them fools. Don't you see it's so much better than just following some rules?*
- *Now, let me clarify: I love the church, I love the Bible, and yes, I believe in sin. But if Jesus came to your church would they actually let him in?*
- *See, remember he was called a glutton and a drunkard by religious men, but the Son of God never supports self-righteousness. Not now, not then.*

Many Christian churches are so involved in self-serving and having the comforts of life be the most important thing rather than the pathway of Jesus. If Jesus came there to teach, would they be welcoming of that teaching or would they not even recognize his Gospel? Would he be entertaining enough? In many ways, his teachings are not comfortable because they draw us to a higher level.

Salvation - worldwide salvation was and is the mission of Jesus:

John 1:29: (NRSV) *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

These are simple scriptural statements (and there are many more) about salvation. We want to give people hope!

Salvation - worldwide salvation came to us at a high price:

Hebrews 2:9: (NRSV) *but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

This great price was required by justice to cancel the sin of Adam. Without that great price - life for life - justice would not have been served and salvation not available.



What about punishment and what is the difference between salvation for Christians and non-Christians?



Last chance for truth, *The Matrix* (1999)

- (Morpheus) Unfortunately, no one can be told what the Matrix is, you have to see it for yourself. This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill, the story ends, you wake up in your bed and you believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill, you stay in wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes. Remember, all I am offering is the truth. Nothing more.

The Bible offers the truth of how the world works and God's ultimate plan of salvation.



Belief: What do you believe about salvation and punishment?

Our belief on punishment:
Sin produces death, not eternal torment.



Please refer to CQ programs: “Do the Fires of Hell Come From God?” (Parts I, II and III) from June 7, 2015, June 26, 2015 and August 30, 2015. “Where Does Your Soul Go When You Die?” (Parts I and II) from March 15, 2015 and April 12, 2015.

Romans 6:23: (KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:6: (KJV) For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Life and death are opposites; not life and torment.

Those who pursue a life without Christ will find death at the end of that road:

Matthew 7:13: (KJV) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to **destruction <684>**, and many there be which go in thereat:

Strong's #684 apoleia (ap-o'-li-a); ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal)

Philippians 3:19: (KJV) Whose end is **destruction <684>**, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.



Total destruction is the biblical end for the incorrigible - those who will not even respond to resurrection and restoration:

Acts 3:23: (KJV) *And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be **destroyed** <1842> from among the people.*

Strong's #1842 exolothreuō (ex-ol-oth-ryoo'-o); to extirpate
(Merriam Webster: *extirpate* 1: to destroy completely, wipe out;
2: to pull up by the root 3: to cut out by surgery)

Unfortunately Christianity has assumed traditions of men that started back in ancient Egyptian mythology, creating an environment of fear. Obey or burn - obedience through fear. Tradition also says if you are not a Christian, salvation is lost, regardless of whether or not one ever had the opportunity to be a Christian.



A CQ App user suggests: **Psalms 51:5:** *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. We are born in sin and shaped in iniquity.*

We are born into this mess, but God's plan is bigger than the mess! It allows the mess as a learning experience.

Belief: Is there a difference in salvation between Christians and non-Christians?



We believe there are two phases of salvation.

God's plan has always had room for true justice and mercy to be served to every human in history!

1 Timothy 4:10: (KJV) *For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.*



Here we have two groups God is taking care of: *all men and those that believe.*

1 John 2:2: (NIV) *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Here we have two groups Jesus atoned the sins for: *ours and the sins of the whole world.* The Bible absolutely makes a distinction between true followers of Christ and everyone else, but does not teach "we" are saved and "everybody else" is lost forever.

While both groups are in line for salvation, their path to salvation is very different:

Romans 8:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸ *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* ¹⁹ *For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*

Again we see the two groups: *the creation* (the "everybody else") and *the sons of God.* The difference is the true followers are redeemed first as *sons of God*, and then *through* them the longing of the rest of the world is fulfilled! The



world wants an answer to the mess it is in. How do they get it? Through the true sons of God.

Romans 8:20-22: (NASB) ²⁰*For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope* ²¹*that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* ²²*For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*



A CQ App user suggests: Who is really "innocent"? Are we not all sinners?

Yes, we are all sinners and have no way to change that.

The world's suffering is trapped in a longing for a hope that they cannot see, but the groaning is only temporary. Those called to follow Christ have the privilege to be able to see that hope first.

Matthew 6:10: (NKJV) *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Jesus was specific about his true followers going to heaven. Then why would he tell his true followers to pray for God's future kingdom to come on earth? For the "everybody else!"

It does make a difference what you believe. God has a plan. Find that plan in Scripture and hold onto it. Walk with it as your guide for life so what you believe changes your life and those around you.

*So, is what you believe that big of a deal?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



We are saddened to hear of yet another mass shooting in our country and are sorry for the grieving families of Orlando. We are comforted by the biblical assurances that Jesus died for ALL, and that ALL will be resurrected and will have the opportunity to come to the knowledge of the truth about God and His love, justice, wisdom and power. What a wonderful God we serve!

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Our belief system regarding our understanding of God:

God is just:

Psalms 89:14: (KJV) *Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.*

Genesis 2:15-17: (NIV) ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.

1 Corinthians 15:22: (NIV) *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*



God is loving:

1 John 4:8-10: (KJV) ⁸He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ⁹In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. ¹⁰Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God is wise:

Proverbs 3:19-20: (NKJV) ¹⁹The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; ²⁰by His knowledge the depths were broken up, and clouds drop down the dew.

God is powerful:

Psalms 148:3-6: (NRSV) ³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

God is faithful:

Lamentations 3:22-23: (KJV) ²²It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 10:13: (NRSV) *No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*

God abhors evil:

Proverbs 6:16-19: (NIV) ¹⁶There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, ¹⁹a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

Jeremiah 32:33-35: (KJV) ³³And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. ³⁴But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. ³⁵And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.



A few more points on our belief system regarding being a Christian:

Sacrifice yourself:

Romans 8:36-39: (NRSV) ³⁶As it is written, for your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered. ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Be transformed:

Romans 12:1-3: (KJV) ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not **conformed** to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. ³For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Be willing to be persecuted:

Matthew 5:11: (NKJV) *Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake.*

2 Timothy 3:12: (NKJV) *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Give up your own will:

Luke 22:41-42: (KJV) ⁴¹And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, ⁴²Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Christianity is a calling and a dramatic altering of priorities to put Jesus and the Gospel above all else. Success in this endeavor comes with both massive changes and incremental progress. Success comes by grace, by the spirit of God and by our humble efforts to transform and renew!

Some things our prayers should be focused on:

Our enemies:

Matthew 5:44: (KJV) *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

Our shortcomings:

Acts 8:22: (KJV) *Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.*

Our rejoicing in trial:

Acts 16:25: (KJV) *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*