

Contrast Brings Clarity

Our Doctrinal Beliefs Really Do Matter!

I. Is It Necessary That We Believe in the God, Jesus, & Gospel of the Bible?

Worship the One, True God Only!

A. Exodus 20:1-6 (NIV2011)

¹ And God spoke all these words:

² **“I am the LORD your God**, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ **“You shall have no other gods before me.**

⁴ **“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.**

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; **for I, the LORD your God**, am a jealous God, **punishing the children** for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of **those who hate me**,

⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

B. Deuteronomy 6:13-15 (NIV2011)

¹³ **Fear the LORD your God, serve him only** and take your oaths in his name.

¹⁴ **Do not follow other gods**, the gods of the peoples around you;

¹⁵ for **the LORD your God**, who is among you, is a jealous God and **his anger will burn against you**, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.

C. Deuteronomy 7:1-4 (NIV2011)

¹ When **the LORD your God** brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—

² and when **the LORD your God** has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.

³ **Do not intermarry with them.** Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,

⁴ **for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD’s anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.**

1. See also **2 Corinthians 6:14-18** and **1 Corinthians 7:39**.

There Is Only One, True God, Jesus Christ, & Holy Spirit

D. John 17:1-3 (NIV2011)

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

³ **Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ,** whom you have sent.

1. See also **Isaiah 43:10; 44:6** and **46:9**.

E. John 3:16 (NIV2011)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave **his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish** but have eternal life.

John 3:36 (NIV2011)

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, **but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.**

1. See also **John 14:6**.

F. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (NIV2011)

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

² **By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

G. Colossians 1:21-23 (NIV2011)

²¹ **Once you were alienated from God** and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

²² **But now he has reconciled you** by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. **This is the gospel that you heard** and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

II. Does It Really Matter WHAT We Believe about the God, Jesus, and the Gospel and FROM WHOM We Receive It?

False Prophets

A. Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (NIV2011)

¹ **If a prophet**, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder,

² and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, **and the prophet says, “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,”**

³ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ **It is the LORD your God you must follow**, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

⁵ **That prophet or dreamer must be put to death for inciting rebellion against the LORD your God**, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. That prophet or dreamer tried to turn you from the way **the LORD your God** commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you.

1. See also **Jeremiah 23:16-18**.

False Christs, Spirits, Gospels, & Apostles

B. 2 Corinthians 11:1-4 (NIV2011)

¹ I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, please put up with me!

² I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

⁴ **For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached**, or if you receive **a different spirit** from the Spirit you received, or **a different gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NIV2011)

¹³ For such people are **false apostles**, deceitful workers, **masquerading as apostles of Christ**.

¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness.

Their end will be what their actions deserve.

C. Matthew 24:4-5 (NIV2011)

⁴ Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.

⁵ **For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’** and will deceive many.

Matthew 24:24-25 (NIV2011)

²⁴ **For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive,** if possible, even the elect.

²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

1. See also **Matthew 7:15-17.**

D. John 8:21-25 (NIV2011)

²¹ Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, **and you will die in your sin.** Where I go, you cannot come.”

²² This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

²³ But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

²⁴ **I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”**

²⁵ “Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied.

1. See also **John 8:58-59; 5:17-18; 10:30-33; Isaiah 43:10** and **45:18 (LXX).**

E. 1 John 4:1-3 (NIV2011)

¹ Dear friends, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,** because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² **This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God:** Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus [“is come in the flesh” KJV] is not from God. **This is the spirit of the antichrist,** which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

F. Galatians 1:6-9 (NIV2011)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to **a different gospel—**

⁷ **which is really no gospel at all.** Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying **to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach **a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!**

⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you **a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!**

1. See also **Galatians 5:1-4.**

False Teachers

G. 2 Peter 2:1-3 (NIV2011)

¹ But there were also **false prophets** among the people, just as there will be **false teachers** among you. **They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them**—bringing swift destruction on themselves.

² Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

³ **In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories.** Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

1. See also **Matthew 23:13-15** and **James 3:1.**

III. How Do the Truly Saved Respond to God's Essential Truths?

Jesus in Samaria

A. John 4:39-42 (NIV2011)

³⁹ **Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him** because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

⁴¹ And because of his words **many more became believers.**

⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and **we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.**"

1. Contrast with **John 6:56-69.**

Peter in Jerusalem

B. Acts 2:38-41 (NIV2011)

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

⁴¹ **Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.**

1. See also **Acts 4:1-4.**

Paul & Silas in Berea

C. Acts 17:10-12 (NIV2011)

¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue.

¹¹ Now **the Berean Jews** were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they **received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.**

¹² **As a result, many of them believed,** as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

1. See also **Acts 17:32-34.**

IV. Do Good Deeds Make Up for Damnable Doctrine?

A. 1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV2011)

¹⁶ **Watch your life and doctrine closely.** Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

B. Romans 3:19-20 (NIV2011)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

²⁰ **Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law;** rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

1. See also **Isaiah 64:6; Titus 3:5-7** and **James 2:10 (cf. Galatians 3:10-11).**