

What Does It Mean To Believe In Jesus?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- Jn. 3:16, one of the most well known verse in Bible
 - unfortunately, misinterpreted by many today
- What does it mean to believe in Jesus? – whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life
 - John (inspired) said it, let him answer the question

➤ Believe (about the word)

- definition: believe in **John 3:16**
 - verb:
 - John doesn't use the noun form in the gospel; he uses the verb, about 10 times more than the other gospel writers
 - believe is an action and requires work – Rom. 10:17
 - to be persuaded, therefore to place one's confidence and trust, signifies reliance upon and not mere credence (Vine's)
 - illus.: 2 athletes
 - coach tells two boys that they'll be state champions if they'll workout 6 days a week, and follows his plan
 - he asked, "Do you believe me?" - both answered yes
 - one boy did what coach said and won state, other just worked out 5 days a week and lost state
 - Which boy believed the coach? - first – confidence, trust, reliance, not mere credence
 - illus.: fireman tried to save 2 people in a burning house
 - house on fire
 - fireman runs inside, tells them to follow him to the attic, he'll cut a whole in roof, they'll escape
 - he asked, "Do you believe me?" - both answered yes
 - one followed fireman and was saved; other ran to the front door and was burned up
 - Which person believed the fireman? - first – confidence, trust, reliance, not mere credence
- because we believe, we put our confidence and trust in Jesus, unquestionably relying on Him
 - trust Him with our lives – souls

➤ To believe in Jesus is to believe Jesus is the Son of Man! – Messiah, the Son of God, Lord, King!

- Jn. 8:24, 28 believe that I am He, the Son of Man

➤ - Dan. 7:13-14 Jesus is the One prophesied of, dominion, eternal kingdom, all people serve Him

- 1 Tim. 6:15 Jesus is Lord of lords, King of kings

➤ - because we believe, we serve Jesus (Son of Man)

- To believe in Jesus is to **continue in His word!** – result: **be His disciple, know truth, set free from sin**
 - **Jn. 8:31-32** believed: continue in **Jesus’ word**, disciples, know the **truth**, make you free – **sin, death** (33-36)
 - **Jn. 1:1** **Jesus is the Word**
 - **1 Jn. 1:1** **Jesus is the Word of Life**
 - **Phil. 2:16** we **hold fast** to the **word of life**, disciples, saved

- - **2 Th. 1:8; 2:10, 12** **saved vs. lost**: obey gospel, love truth, believe truth

- - **because we believe, we continue in Jesus’ word** – result: **His disciple, know truth, set free from sin**

- To believe in Jesus is to **believe in His name!** – respect Him as the Son of Man
 - **Jn. 3:16, 18** **believe in Jesus** is to **believe in His name**
 - **“believe in His name”** denotes **believe in His authority**
 - **Col. 3:17** word and deed, do all in the name of the Lord

- - **Jn. 1:12-13** **How do you believe in His name?**
 - **vs. 12a** **receive Him** – as the authority of your life
 - **vs. 13a** **born again** – **Jn. 3:5** water and Spirit, baptism into Christ

- - **because we believe, we respect Jesus’ authority** – result: **born again - water and Spirit**

- To believe in Jesus is to **obey Him!** – respect Jesus’ authority – obey
 - **Heb. 5:9** Jesus source of eternal **salvation**, to **those who obey Him**

- - **Jn. 3:14** **illus. believe / obedience**: bronze serpent, obedience required, same with respect to Jesus
 - **story**: Israel grumbled against God, serpents sent to punish them, bite, die, God commanded Moses to make bronze serpent, put on standard, everyone who looked at it would live
 - **millions of Israelites**, some would have been very far from the bronze serpent
 - **What would have happened** if an Israelite stayed in his tent and **repeatedly said, “I believe. . .”?**
 - **What would have happened** if an Israelite had **prayed or faith?**
 - **Could an Israelite have done anything** other than **travel** to the place where the serpent was, and **look** upon it?
 - **Did an Israelite who believed, have to obey, to be saved from the serpent’s bite?**
 - **Jn. 3:15-16** **if we believe, we will obey to be saved, just like the Israelites**

- - **Jn. 3:36** **believe and saved** – not obey and lost – **cf. Mk. 16:16**
 - **“not obey”** NASB / **“not believe”** (NKJ)
 - **Greek: *apeitheo*** believe not, disobedient, obey not, unbelieving
 - **a person who doesn’t believe, doesn’t obey** – believe God, bronze serpent, Jesus, His commands

- - **Jn. 6:29** **believe in Jesus, the work of God = obey**
- - **Jude 1:5** **illus.: God’s punishment of Israel in wilderness**, all died but Joshua and Caleb, because they were the **only ones who believed** – story (**Num. 14:5-10, 20-23**)
 - **Num. 14:24** **Caleb followed God fully** – **to believe is to follow God fully** – obey

Summary / Inv.

- What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

- to be persuaded, place your confidence and trust in Him, relying upon Him for everything
- believe in the Son of Man
- continue in His word
- believe in His name – respect His authority
- obey Him, follow God fully

➤ - believing in Jesus results in salvation – believe in Jesus' name, obey, saved

- **Jn. 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish, but **have eternal life.**"

- **inv.:** Will you believe in Jesus?