

WHY ARE YOU A BELIEVER?

by Curtis Pugh

Some will try to tell us that people who believe on Christ are cripples: that they are gullible. They maintain that religion is a crutch needed by unstable people. We would agree that some who call themselves Christians are gullible. Some are false professors who do not actually possess spiritual life. These and others like them only have a man-made religion.

But we address the question “Why Are You A Believer” to those who have genuinely been given faith in Christ. Faith is a gift because Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Saving faith is “the gift of God.” So we may ask, why were you given faith? Why are you a believer?

The Bible is absolutely clear as to why you are a believer if indeed you are a genuine one: if your total reliance is on Christ and His finished work for your salvation. Acts 13:48 says, “And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”

The context of that verse is this: the Jews had rejected the preaching of Paul and Barnabas when they brought the Gospel of Christ to them in Antioch, Pisidia. Because of this the two apostles turned to the Gentiles – those who were not Jews ethnically. This caused great rejoicing among these non-Jews and “as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.” Why did they believe? The same reason that you believed, if you truly have believed on Christ. You like those who believed back then believed because you “were ordained to eternal life.”

Many people do not like the fact that the Bible teaches predestination and God's “determinate counsel” spoken of in Acts 2:23. They reject the idea that even sinners do “...whatsoever thy [God's] hand and thy counsel determined before to be done,” (Acts 4:28). But when men reject God's Word they are left to their own error. Sinners boastfully think that they do as they please when actually they do exactly what God determined before to allow sinners to do. In this way they accomplish God's plan.

Paul makes this clear in his letter to the congregation at Ephesus when he wrote: “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved,” (Ephesians 1:5-6). And again he said, “In whom [Christ] also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will,” (Ephesians 1:11).

So then give God all the praise and glory if you are a genuine believer. If you are trusting the finished work of Christ for your salvation you do so because God ordained it.

Today is April 14, 2024

Sovereign Grace

Missionary Baptist Church

*“Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught
for Sixty-Two Years” Since October 21, 1961*

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“Our Prayer List”

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thess. 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders.

“Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works”

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

"A Message from Pastor Johnson"

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof..." 1st Peter 5:2

"Thank You Lord, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath..."

1 Thessalonians 5:9 - 10 "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."

Every lost person trusts in something or someone, organized religion, works and good deeds or some other false hope. Every lost soul is trusting in some sort of god, even if they are agnostic. The world is full of gods, saviours, with all sorts of ways to get to their believed heaven. And these lost people have one thing in common, their god is imaginary, their salvation is impossible, and their salvation is dead just as their god is, and they are all going to suffer the wrath of Jehovah The True God. Jehovah is the God of the bible, the God who saves the sinner from His wrath through His Son Jesus, the seed of the woman, the Saviour of mankind. Jesus is not just man He is also Jehovah's Son incarnate with Jehovah the Son, the second part of the Trinity. God said in Isaiah 26:4, 5 *"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength: For he bringeth down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, he layeth it low; he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust."* Our total faith must be in God, and if it is we can indeed be content in this world, but one single wrinkle, one small kink in our armor of faith, and we will never be content. Moses told the Jews in Exo. 14:13 *"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever."* The promise was *"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD...he layeth it low; he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust."* The wrath that is too feared is not the people of this world, it is not even Satan and his angels or demons, it is God because He is Omni everything. God's wrath is a Just and Righteous wrath, and it is painful and dreadful, and it will come to every single lost soul in this world. God promised is in 2 Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* God is not willing that any of His elect souls should perish, and this is His promise to us who are saved or will one day be saved. Again, this is the base of our contentment, trusting in the word of Jehovah God. God is Omni or all-power and there is no power greater than that of God. God is all-knowing; therefore, He knows everything at one time, He never does not see everything because He already knows everything.

Pastor Johnson, Continued

He already knew that Satan wanted to take Jobs life, therefore God forbid him from doing so. As God's children we need to understand and believe in God's promises to us, and one of God's gracious promises is *"God hath not appointed us to wrath"*. There is nothing more hurtful to a human soul than that of God's wrath. The Tribulation period is full of God's wrath on this lost and dying world. More than ever before, more than the flood because people will suffer much before God kills them and send them to eternal hell. People will see God; Jesus will open the heavens and they will know that Jehovah is God and that He is sending His promised wrath to them. *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them."* Romans 1:18 And when God is finished all of them will be caught-up to the White-Throne of Jesus and learn of their eternal placement in eternal hell. But to us, to us who God has saved and Jesus has redeemed, to us whom God has promised many things, *"God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"*. We are the blessed of all God's created beings because God hath chosen us not to suffer eternal damnation with the lost and wicked of this world, but to live eternal blessedness with Him and our Saviour sin-free and cleansed as He is. *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."* 1 John 3:1

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:4-8

Church Information and Happenings.

1. Happy Birthday Sister Martha Mollette Friday April 19th