

DO YOU BELIEVE?

Romans 10:9

INTRO Welcome again to our Easter worship experience here at Christ First Church. This is RESURRECTION SUNDAY! Let's acknowledge the greatness of our God once more by giving Him another HAND CLAP OF PRAISE!

This morning I ask that you turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to ROMANS chapter 10. The Book of Romans. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, and ROMANS. Romans, the sixth book of the New Testament. There are 27 books in the NT. You should get to know them. There is nothing more precious in the world than God's Word, the HOLY BIBLE. It is a compilation of 66 books, written by about 40 penman, inspired and authored by God, over a period of about 1500 years. It is perfectly entire, without any errors. It is infallible, meaning it's incapable of being wrong. And it alone is the soul authority concerning matters of life and faith. Read it, get to know it, and I promise, you will fall in love with it!

Today, for my sermon title, I want to ask a simple question... DO YOU BELIEVE? Do you believe that Jesus is... and that He is, who He says He is?

Jesus made an audacious claim. He claims to be the Son of God, and very God! Meaning, He is equal to God. And He declares Himself to be the ONLY WAY TO GOD. We then, are faced with the choice of whether or not we will accept His assertion or reject it. Jesus says to believe in Him is to have everlasting life, while rejecting Him means to eternally perish. If what He says is true, then, I suppose you would agree with me, the STAKES ARE VERY HIGH.

The question then, by necessity it would seem, needs to be settled today! DO YOU BELIEVE? Read with me...

Romans 10:9 *"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*

WOW, that's a lot to take in, yet it seems simple enough.

One day Jesus hung on a cross, friendless and forsaken. It was a death of shame. A cruel and violent death reserved for slaves and common criminals. A few days later, He was worshipped enthusiastically by thousands as the Son of God. Something must have happened in between. It did. Jesus rose from the dead!

When He hung on the cross, He was alone. But within 50 years of the resurrection, there was a church to His honor and worship in every major city in the Roman Empire. And through the years, millions of people from every generation and tongue, have believed on Jesus Christ as their Savior. Many have believed. But what about you? Do you believe?

Let's look at a few things together and see if we can get you to that place...

I) THE BASIC ASSUMPTION OF THE GOSPEL: v 9 *"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead..."* The Bible does not waffle on it's declaration of the resurrection. No where in the sacred pages do we see any other explanation as to what happened to Jesus Christ.

I) THE BASIC ASSUMPTION OF THE GOSPEL: v 9 CONTINUED The resurrection of Jesus is the end-all argument of Christianity. If it did not happen, then we are fools! But if the resurrection did take place, then we hold the treasure of life and faith!

Nothing is more important to the cause of Christianity, than the resurrection. If the resurrection is not true, we have no reason to be. BUT Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. He came out of the grave. And He is alive today! The Gospel depends on it! I depend on it! And whether you know it or not, your life depends on it as well.

Notice three things quickly.

A) A Proven Truth: Acts 1:1-3 *“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”*

The reason the disciples believed so strongly in the resurrection, the reason they were willing to die a martyrs death, was because they actually saw Jesus alive after His death! Can you comprehend that? They followed Jesus throughout His ministry. They saw Him be crucified, and watched Him die. THEN they saw Him again, alive!

And it wasn't just once, and maybe they were mistaken. No no, Jesus presented Himself alive on a number of different occasions to His followers. Consequently, we see them testifying, time and time again, to the fact, that they were eyewitnesses of His resurrection. This firsthand evidence of the disciples is a powerful argument for the resurrection of Christ.

And it wasn't just His disciples that saw Him. Many others did as well. In 1 Corinthians 15:6, Paul tells the church in Corinth that Jesus was seen by more than 500 people at one time after His resurrection. As a matter of fact, there are at least 10 different occasions mentioned in the Bible that Jesus was seen and spoke to people after, after, He had died.

ILLUS: John Singleton Copley, one of the great legal minds in British history, and three times Chancellor of England, wrote, “I know pretty well what evidence is, and I tell you, such evidence as that for the resurrection has never broken down yet.”

So, we have a PROVEN TRUTH, now notice...

B) A Personal Trust: v 9 *“if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Do you BELIEVE? Do YOU believe? It's the most important question you will ever be confronted with!

Listen to me, it's not enough that your grandmother believed. It will not suffice that your mother and father were believers. If you entertain the notion of going to Heaven when you die, YOU MUST BELIEVE! It's a personal trust!

I) THE BASIC ASSUMPTION OF THE GOSPEL: v 9

A) A Proven Truth: Acts 1:1-3

B) A Personal Trust: v 9

Okay, so we have seen under the Basic Assumption of the Gospel, A PROVEN TRUTH, and A PERSONAL TRUST. Now notice we have...

C) A Public Testimony: v 9 *"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* Some people say it's too hard to share their faith in Christ. They say that living a good life in front of others is what's important. And I agree that's important. But God doesn't let us off with just a lifestyle witness, He tells us here in Scripture that if we are to be a Christian, we must be willing to confess the Lord Jesus with our mouths. The command is to speak up, and speak out!

How long has it been since you told someone what Jesus means to you? How long has it been since you used your God-given voice to tell others about Him?

The Basic Assumption of the Gospel. Notice secondly, and lastly...

II) THE BLESSED ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL: v 9 *"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Romans 3:23 *"for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,"*

Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Romans 10:9 *"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Romans 4:22-25 *"And therefore (Abraham's faith in God) was accounted to him for righteousness." 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification."*

CONCLUSION: Everything that needs to happen for you to become a Christian, for you to be saved today, has been taken care of by God. All there is left to do is believe. Will you believe? Can you believe? DO YOU BELIEVE?