

Perspectives

What Do You Believe About Jesus?

There is a saying that proclaims, “You have to stand for something or you’ll fall for anything.” The meaning behind this is that if you have no values on which you stand, then you’ll accept anything. You could also put it another way, “If don’t believe in something, you’ll believe anything.” That is, if you have no firmly held beliefs on which you stand, then you’re more likely to accept anything others are trying to make you believe.

Our beliefs shape our thinking and our actions. What we believe influences how we view others and the world. People listen to candidates in order to see which one most lines up with their beliefs before casting a vote. We give money to organizations that we believe are serving a worthwhile purpose. Our beliefs affect how we act toward family, friends, and those we come into contact with each day. Beliefs matter.

In the first unit of this quarter, we will be looking at passages that answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” What we believe about Jesus matters. That is not to say that we have to have perfect knowledge about Jesus or know everything there is to know about Him before we can begin and have an ongoing relationship with Him (Ephesians 2:8). However, that doesn’t mean that our knowledge and belief about Jesus isn’t important. Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They responded, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Obviously, Jesus was not those people, so He asked, “Who do you say I am?” And Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah” (Matthew 16:13-17). Clearly, what they believed about Jesus mattered. He was not a reincarnated prophet, or just a very wise teacher among other teachers, or, as some believe today, a made up character by people long ago. The truth is that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God (see Acts 4:12; Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Timothy 2:5).

As you read each passage, invite the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to who Jesus is and the ways knowing Him makes a powerful difference in your life.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

MIKE WONCH

Editor