

Unbelief

John 10:22-42

In 2018 research found that 26% of Americans are estimated to be atheists. Pew Research Center found that 28% of Americans identify as "nones", which includes 17% who are atheists, 20% who are agnostics, and 63% who identify as "nothing in particular". Two-thirds of "nones" say they question religious teachings or don't believe in God. I share all of that to share that we are a nation plagued with unbelief.

I. Jesus Exposes the Condition of Unbelief (John 10:22-26) The Feast of Dedication, today known as Hanukkah (Festival of Lights), shows us that there was about a two-month gap between verses 21 and 22. Verse 21 was still during the Feast of Tabernacles. Hanukkah is not an Old Testament celebration. It came during the intertestamental period celebrating Israel's victory over a pagan Syrian King. Jesus uses this opportunity to express their unbelief. The key question that unbelievers are asking is found at the end of verse 24 "If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus is recorded throughout the book of John letting us know that He indeed is the Messiah, God incarnate, the one sent by God, the Christ. This is a question that everyone must wrestle with. There are three answers to who Jesus is: 1. Liar, 2. Lunatic, or 3. Lord. If He is indeed Lord, which I believe with everything in me He is, that changes everything. This condition of unbelief needs to be corrected to belief! The condition of unbelief is death bringing, but the correction for death is life through and in Jesus Christ! (1 John 5:12) ***"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."***

II. Jesus Expresses the Consequences of Unbelief (John 10:27-31)

- a. Unbelievers do not hear, know, or follow Jesus. (v. 27) A believer is different than their former self. (2 Corinthians 5:17) ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."***
- b. Unbelievers will not experience eternal life, but they will experience death. (v. 28) Rev. 20: 14-15 ***"Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."***

- c. Unbelievers do not have the security of God the Father and God the Son. (vv. 29-30)

III. Jesus Explains the Correction for Unbelief (John 10:32-42)

- a. The comfort of knowing that God the Son and God the Father are one. (v. 38)
- b. The true testimonies of those changed by Jesus. (v. 41)
- c. The call for us to believe. (v. 42) (Mark 1:19) "Fellow me and I will make you fishers of men." Romans 10:9-10 ***"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in***

your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

The prophet Ezekiel shares with us what Jesus does to us once we place faith in Him. (Ezekiel 36:26-27) ***"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."***

Remember in Mark 9 when the father of the demon possessed boy brought the boy to Jesus? ***"And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, I believe; help my unbelief!"*** (Mark 9:23-24) May that be our response!

How do you know that you believe that Christ has saved you, conquered death for you, and will resurrect you to eternal life one day?

Assurance of Belief

1. To actively practice what you truly believe. (Ephesians 1:7-10)

"in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

2. The Holy Spirit has given you affirmation that you are saved. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

3. To have an affection for Christ and for His Bride, the Church. (Ephesians 1:19-23)

"and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."