

“Yet They Believed Not On
Him”

John 12:36-43

The Necessity of Faith

- Heb. 11:6 → 6 But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Jn. 8:24 → 24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.

Mk. 16:15-16 → 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

The Danger of Unbelief

- Heb. 3:12 → 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
- Heb. 4:2, 6, 11 → 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it]. ... 6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: ... 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.
- Heb. 10:38-39 → 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Unbelief...

- The absence of faith.
- The failure to be persuaded.
- The rejection of the evidence that should convince a rational, open minded individual.
- The condition of heart that does not place trust in God, his word and does not comply with his instructions.
- Jn. 3:36 → He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Causes of Unbelief → Religious Division

- Those who reject true religion and the Bible as it's standard because they see a world religiously divided, contradicting and confused.
- Look at what a mess things are in. Why should I believe anything?

Causes of Unbelief → Religious Division

- What does the Bible teach?
 - Jn. 17:20-21 → 20 Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me.
 - 1Cor. 1:10 → 10 Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Causes of Unbelief → Religious Division

- What does the Bible teach?
 - Eph. 4:1-6 → 1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, 2 with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 [There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.

Causes of Unbelief → Desire To Be Free From Moral Restraint

- Aldous Huxley → belief in God and the world as having meaning is a hindrance to sexual freedom.
- The attitude is to refuse to acknowledge God and His law since it gets in the way of what man wants to do.
- Characterized the Gentile world in the first century. (Rom. 1:16-32)

Causes of Unbelief → Desire To Be Free From Moral Restraint

- This so-called freedom is slavery of the worst sort.
 - 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof: 13 neither present your members unto sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves unto God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law, but under grace. (Rom. 6:12-14)
 - Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. (Jn. 8:34)

Causes of Unbelief → Desire To Be Free From Moral Restraint

- True happiness and freedom is found by keeping God's commandments.
 - 1Tim. 4:8 → 8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.
 - Heb. 11:24-25 → 24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;
 - Rev. 22:14 → 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Causes of Unbelief → Human Pride

- Friedrich Nietzsche, atheistic philosopher → “if there were gods, how could I stand it to be no god.”
- George Gaylord Simpson: “...is his own master. He can and must decide his own destiny.”
- The Humanist Manifesto → “As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God, nature not deity. We can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species...humans are responsible for what we are or will become.”

Causes of Unbelief → Human Pride

- ***How pride manifests itself:***

- 2Ki. 5:11 → 11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, **Behold, I thought**, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.
- Prov. 14:12 → 12 There is a way which **seemeth right unto a man**, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.
- Jer. 10:23 --. 23 O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.
- Lk. 12:19 → 19 And I will say to my soul, **Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years**; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.
- Rom. 10:1-3 → 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and **going about to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Causes of Unbelief → Hypocrisy In Professing Believers...

- The destructive influence of pretense in the life of professing Christians:
 - Rom. 2:21 -24 → Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? 22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? 23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? 24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written. (cf. Titus 2:5; 10)

Causes of Unbelief → A Failure To Instill Respect For Authority In The Home

- Deut. 6:4-8 → 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
- 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
- 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
- 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Causes of Unbelief → A Failure To Instill Respect For Authority In The Home

- Judges 2:6-10 → 6 And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. ... 10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.
- Judges 21:25 → In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Causes of Unbelief → A Failure To Instill Respect For Authority In The Home

- Eph. 6:1-4 → 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.