

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of February 18, 2024 A.D.

Believing Is an Action Verb

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Philippians 3:7-9

1. Read verse 8. Is it absolutely necessary for a person to “know Christ Jesus” in order to have eternal life? If so, must that knowledge also include knowing Christ as “my Lord”?
2. What is the difference between “knowing about Christ” and “knowing Christ”? In your opinion, do most church members in America fall into the category of “knowing about Christ” or into the category of “knowing Christ”?
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “To know Christ as your Lord and Savior is the most important knowledge in all of human existence.”
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Any nation which restricts or prohibits its public or private schools from teaching and/or reading from the Bible is doomed to destruction.”

Read Matthew 10:28

5. Afraid means “filled with fear or apprehension”. To whom is Jesus referring when he uses (a) the word “those” in the first sentence and (b) the word “One” in the second sentence? Which of these two do you fear? Which of these two do most humans fear?

Read Revelation 21:6-8

6. Will a cowardly person enter into the kingdom of heaven? Give examples of how Satan uses fear and intimidation to control human behavior. In your opinion, does God expect those who “know Christ Jesus” to speak and to act fearlessly for and about “Christ Jesus my Lord”?

Read Luke 5:27-28

7. What did it cost Levi to follow Jesus? Does Jesus call every human (a) to follow Him? and (b) to follow Him without considering the cost? Can a person enter into the kingdom of heaven without following Jesus?

Read Luke 9:23-26

8. According to verse 24, must a person "lose his life for Jesus" in order to "save it"? What does Jesus mean when He says, "whoever wants to save his life will lose it"?
9. Does Jesus require every person who wants to go to heaven (and not be condemned to hell) to "deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Jesus"? How would you describe the life of a person who chooses to "deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Jesus"?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

10. A disciple is "a person who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of their teacher". Can a person enter into eternal life in the kingdom of Christ without (a) becoming a disciple of Christ and (b) thereafter making and teaching other disciples to obey everything that Christ commanded"?

Read Luke 18:29-30

11. Does Jesus promise to supply the material and relational needs of his disciples while they follow and serve Him on earth? Please describe how you personally trust Jesus to supply your material and relational needs while you seek to serve Him each day.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

12. Does God have a job assignment and/or list for good works designated specifically for each of his followers to do? If a person does not seek to know and accomplish those designated good works, is that person a child of God?

Consider: We cannot earn our salvation by virtue of doing good works. However, by His grace, God has given to us the free gift of salvation with the expectation and the command that each of us are to do the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do. You think about that. Amen.