

Whose report will you Believe!

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Foundation scripture

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) “All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for ever good work.”

1. Who's report will you believe when it comes to salvation!

What does it say in the Bible?

Romans 10:13 (NIV) “for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

My question for you is – have you called on the name of the Lord? Have you called on Jesus. If not, why not?

Then follows Romans 10:14-15 which is very telling.

The focus changes – from the non-Christian to the Christian and it's so subtle you may miss it.

Romans 10:14-15 (NIV) “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The call / the demand / the requirement is not on those that don't know Jesus in this piece of scripture – it is on you, and it is on me – the Christians. And in essence it is saying those that don't know Jesus must hear the message first - before they get anywhere near the starting line – and have the opportunity to call on Jesus as their Lord and Personal Saviour.

2. Once saved, always saved?

Whose report will you believe?

We need to go to the Bible – what does it say

Matthew 24:12-13 (NKJV) “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

Those who endure to the end are the opposite of those in the previous verse whose love grows cold. Jesus' statement that he who endures to the end will be saved cannot be taken to mean that our salvation is somehow dependent on our personal ability to remain saved. Rather, it is a promise of perseverance. Those who have the grace to endure to the end are the ones who are genuinely saved by grace. The various trials Jesus mentions will reveal our true colours. “Most will grow cold” and fall away from Christ, showing that they are professors only and not truly born again. But those who endure and stand firm in the faith, despite incitements to do otherwise, are showing that they are genuine children of God.

Are you a genuine child of God?

It says in

Matthew 24:10 (NKJV) “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”

If you want to be one of the ones that endure to the end – you will have to get use to getting over being offended. I reckon that one of the biggest reasons people leave Churches is that they get offended – don't become a statistic.

As Christians we are either growing Closer to God, or Further Away from God – there is no middle ground. And being out of Church will cause most, if not all, to shrink or shrivel spiritually. Because in Church is where we get fed.

So - Once saved / Always saved - Those who endure to the end shall be saved.”

We always need to go back to what the Word says.

3. Have you got the God-kind of faith!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) “All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for ever good work.”

All scripture – we cannot just pick and choose the pieces we like.

Now this is Jesus speaking.

John 14:12-14 (NKJV) “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

Do you believe that? Did you hear what Jesus said? Are you fully persuaded!

To personalise the underlined piece of scripture above:

“and greater works than these we will do, because Jesus goes to is Father. And whatever we ask in Jesus name, He will do it,”

Now to drill a bit deeper and give context. What works did Jesus do?

Well - this is a summary

Jesus walked on the blue waters of Galilee. The winds and waves obeyed His command. He healed the sick and raised the dead. He gave sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. He cast out demons and made the lame to walk. He turned water into wine and fed five thousand with the lunch of a lad.

Greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father. And whatever you ask in my name, that I will do!

Are you fully persuaded?

Whose report will you believe?

Romans 4:17-21 (NIV) “As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations. ”He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Are you fully persuaded that God is able to do what he has promised in the Bible? That He is able and willing to perform it?

I would say that most people here – this morning – would say that they don’t have an issue with believing that God is able to do and perform the promises in the Bible.

Some people, however, struggle with believing / having faith that God will do it for them.

Mark 11:22-24 (NIV) “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. ²³ “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Some people, mainly in the world say seeing is believing – well there is no faith in that.

Faith is all about believing and receiving, then seeing.

To quote Mark 11:24 again “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Proverbs 4:20-22 (NIV) “My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words.²¹ Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; ²² for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body.”