

I STILL Believe (Part 2)
Sunday, August 15, 2020

Last week we began a new series... "I Still Believe"

We began with four new testament verses that teach us about the importance of knowing what we believe and continuing in that believe.

Luke 18:8 (NIV)

8 ...I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

John 20:31 (NIV)

31 But these are written so that you may believe (and continue to believe) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, by believing, (continuing to believe) you may have life through his name.

John 3:14-16 (NIV)

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who **believes** (and continues to believe) may have eternal life in him." **16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes** (and continues to believe) in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Galatians 1:6 (NCV)

6 God, by his grace through Christ, called you to become his people. So I am amazed that you are turning away so quickly and believing something different than the Good News.

We discussed the early church creeds (*The word 'Creed' is derived from the Latin word credo, meaning 'I believe'. The Creeds therefore, are summaries of belief.*) as well as our own foundational truths in the Assemblies of God which helps focus our faith on the correct beliefs as well as giving us a tool for sustaining or continuing our believe in those truths.

We then looked at the first two statements representing the truths that we need to understand and persevere in our belief

1. **I Still Believe** in the **One, Eternal, Self-existent God**, creator of the heavens and the earth, all that is seen and unseen; His love of and desire to reveal himself and have relationship with those whom he has created.

2. I Still Believe in the Trinity of the Godhead as being revealed as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Today I want to continue with four more statements of belief that I feel are critical for us to hold on to till Jesus returns

1. I Still Believe that sin separates us from God and that the result of that sin is death or eternal separation from God in Hell

- a. You will surely die

Genesis 2:17 (NIV)

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Romans 5:12-19 (NIV)

12 ...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

15 ...the many died by the trespass of the one man

16 ...The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation...

17 ...by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man,

18 Consequently... one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people,

19 ...through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners,

- b. All have sinned/The wages of sin is death

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

23 For the wages of sin is death

Dr. Charles Ryrie has given a listing of Hebrew and Greek words which describe sin. He says that in the Hebrew there are at least eight basic words: “ra, bad (Genesis 38:7); rasha, wickedness (Exodus 2:13); asham, guilt (Hosea 4:15); chata,

sin (Exodus 20:20); avon, iniquity (I Samuel 3:13); shagag, err (Isaiah 28:7); taah, wander away (Ezekiel 48:11); pasha, rebel (I Kings 8:50). The usage of these words leads to certain conclusions about the doctrine of sin in the Old Testament. (1) Sin was conceived of as being fundamentally disobedience to God. (2) While disobedience involved both positive and negative ideas, the emphasis was definitely on the positive commission of wrong and not the negative omission of good. . (3) Sin may take many forms

“The New Testament uses twelve basic words to describe sin. They are: kakos, bad (Romans 13:3); poneros, evil (Matthew 5:45); asebes, godless (Romans 1:18); enochos, guilt (Matthew 5:21); hamartia, sin (I Corinthians 6:18); adikia, unrighteousness (I Corinthians 6:9); anomos, lawlessness (I Timothy 1:9); parabates, transgression (Romans 5:14); agnoein, to be ignorant (Romans 1:13); planan, to go astray (I Corinthians 6:9); paraptomai, to fall away (Galatians 6:1); and hupocrites, hypocrite (I Timothy 4:2). From the uses of these words several conclusions may also be drawn. (1) There is always a clear standard against which sin is committed. (2) Ultimately all sin is a positive rebellion against God and a transgression of His standards.

The word that is used most frequently is hamartia, missing the mark. It is the most comprehensive term for explaining sin. Paul used the verb hamartano when he wrote, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

- c. There are many, even within the church who want to do away with the idea of sin. Progressively they have redefined what is and is not considered sin. The spirit of the Antichrist has so blinded this world that they call evil good and good evil. In addition, that same spirit has tried to erase the concept of punishment for sin and an eternity in Hell
- d. Yet, Jesus spoke about the reality hell extensively

The Uncomfortable Subject Jesus Addressed More than Anyone Else

MAY 11, 2017 | [LESLIE SCHMUCKER](#)

A friend once challenged me to show her where Jesus talks about hell in the Gospels. Even a cursory read-through shows Jesus talked about it plenty. In fact, Jesus talked about hell more than any other person in the Bible. In [Luke 16](#), he describes a great chasm over which “none may cross from there to us.”

In [Matthew 25](#), Jesus tells of a time when people will be separated into two groups, one entering into his presence, the other banished to “eternal fire.”

Jesus doesn't only reference hell, he describes it in great detail. He says it is a place of eternal torment ([Luke 16:23](#)), of unquenchable fire ([Mark 9:43](#)), where the worm does not die ([Mark 9:48](#)), where people will gnash their teeth in anguish and regret ([Matt. 13:42](#)), and from which there is no return, even to warn loved ones ([Luke 16:19–31](#)). He calls hell a place of "outer darkness" (Matt. 25:30), comparing it to "Gehenna" (Matt. 10:28), which was a trash dump outside the walls of Jerusalem where rubbish was burned and maggots abounded. Jesus talks about hell more than he talks about heaven, and describes it more vividly. There's no denying that Jesus knew, believed, and warned against the absolute reality of hell.

Reason for Hell

Jesus has to talk about hell because it is the fate that awaits all people apart from him. Because of Adam's sin, we're all guilty and deserve God's eternal punishment. Contrary to popular belief, hell is not a place where God sends those who have been especially bad; it's our default destination. We need a rescuer or we stand condemned.

So we're left with two options: stay in our state of depravity and be eternally punished, or submit to the Savior and accept his gift of redemption.

2. **I Still Believe** that God's remedy for Sin is **Salvation by grace, through faith** in Jesus and His work upon the cross.
 - a. This includes knowing Jesus was God's only son born of a virgin, that he was God, that he lived a sinless life, that he suffered and died on the cross, shedding his blood for the forgiveness of our sins and our redemption to The Father
 - b. *I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*
 - c. Wages of sin is death... but the gift of God
 - Romans 6:23 (NIV)**
 - ²³ For the wages of sin is death,^(A) but the gift of God is eternal life^(B) in^[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.

d. I am the way the truth and the life

John 14:6 (NIV)

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

e. On the day of Pentecost Peter told the people to repent and believe in Jesus

Acts 2:36 (NIV)

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

Acts 2:37-38 (NIV)

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

f. Paul told the Philippians jailer to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and he would be saved

Acts 16:29-34 (NIV)

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved —you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

g. **Romans 10:9-13**

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile —the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

h. Confess

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

3. **I Still Believe** that we are called to walk, by that same faith, in relationship with Jesus Christ, allowing the presence of His Holy Spirit to transform us into a new creation

a. New creation

2 Corinthians 5:14-15,17,21 (NIV)

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

b. Put off the old, put on the new

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

c. The transformation of salvation is an ongoing process in our lives

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

d. Sanctification

e. Parsing salvation - there is a past, present and future tense to our salvation (I was saved, I am being saved, I will be saved)

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Romans 5:9 (NIV)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

f. The cost of discipleship

“When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, [The Cost of Discipleship](#)

“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: ‘Ye were bought at a price’, and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us.

Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, [The Cost of Discipleship](#)

g. Take up your cross

Luke 9:23 (NIV)

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

h. Walk by faith

i. Produce fruit

Matthew 3:8 (NIV)

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Matthew 3:8 (NLT)

8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

j. It is impossible for us to hold on to our belief if we do not know what we believe in the first place. Likewise, we will never walk in obedience to the ways of a God unless we first know what those ways are

4. **I Still Believe** that **The Bible is God's Holy Word.** That The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

a. They Teach us about God, salvation, and righteousness

2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NIV)

15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

b. Verbally Inspired

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. **21** For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

c. They teach us how to live