

⇒ Hypocrisy & unfaithfulness of professed believers (Rom 2:17-24; 14:1-15:1)

The cure for Unbelief

IS BELIEF IN JESUS!

- ◆ A BELIEF THAT TRUSTS IN HIS HIS WORK (John 3:16; 8:24; Acts 2:37)
- ◆ A BELIEF THAT ACCEPTS ALL HIS WORDS (Mat. 17:5; 28:19,20; John 6:63,68; Acts 5:20)
- ◆ A BELIEF THAT SUBMITS TO HIS AUTHORITY (Luke 6:46; Rom. 6:17; 2 Co. 10:5)
- ◆ A BELIEF THAT RESTS IN HIS PROMISES (John 6:40; 1 Thess. 5:24; Heb. 10:23)

We Choose

We can choose to LISTEN (Mat. 7:24-26)

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

What is the best attitude to have when studying or hearing the truth?

“Test everything. Hold on to the good. **Avoid every kind of evil.**” 1 Th. 5:21,22 (NIV)

“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.**” Acts 17:11. (NASB)

“Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits** to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” 1 Jn. 4:1 (NASB)

“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, **so that you may know how you should respond** to each person.” Col. 4:6. (NASB)

“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.” 1 Pet. 3:15. (NASB)

That is God's answer. Can we argue with it (Jer. 10:23; Isa. 55:8,9; John 17:17)? David



The SOMERSET

Teacher

Christians Living As Christians

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Sentence Sermon...

Jesus is the only fountain who can satisfy the thirsty soul.

Amazing Unbelief

5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief.... Mark 6:5-6 (NKJV)

Have you ever been amazed at how strongly a person refuses to accept something in face of all the evidence? It does not matter what area of life we may be discussing, it can be absolutely amazing that a person refuses what is so obvious. That is the condition Jesus finds in the above text. The context is as follows:

Mark 6:1-6 (NKJV) Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Jesus Rejected

Here is what we learned. Jesus was in His own country and He taught in the synagogue, as was His custom. While some were amazed at His teaching, wisdom and power, they did not believe and were even "offended!" They knew of His miracles elsewhere and saw His evidences, but they refused to believe and only accepted Him as ordinary from an ordinary family. Jesus was amazed at such unbelief!

The original word in the Bible for unbelief (apistia) simply means unfaithfulness as in person betraying a trust (cf. Rom. 3:3). These withheld belief in the Divine mission of Jesus and the promises of God, despite evidence to the contrary. They were unwilling to commit themselves or respond positively to the word of God. In summary, they refused to admit the truth of God's revealed word and rejected that His word could be depended on. They rejected Jesus and His word.

Others Too Have Shown Amazing Unbelief At God's Word

From man's first encounters with the temptation of unbelief, we see it in the garden of Eden - Gen 3. We remember that unbelief brought the destruction to the world of Noah's day - Gen 6; 1 Pet 3:18-22. We read that unbelief prevented Israel from entering the promised land - Num 13,14; Ps 78:22; 106:24; Heb 3:12,19. It is the same obstinate heart that was seen in Jews who rejected Jesus - John 5:45-47; 8:24; Rom 11:20; 1 Tim 1:13.

There are consequences to unbelief

In reading Ephesians 4:17-19 (NKJV), we read: *17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work.* So what are the consequences to unbelief, as stated here?

⇒ Vain thinking and living

- ⇒ One's Understanding is darkened
- ⇒ One is Alienated from life in God
- ⇒ Ignorance / blindness
- ⇒ Conscience becomes hardened
- ⇒ Ungodly living
- ⇒ Negative influence for others
- ⇒ Not the least, onestands CONDEMNED (5:6)

The world does not believe but God reveals to the unbeliever, "You will die in your sins" - John 8:24 and he "Shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." - John 3:36 and he will be cast into the lake of fire, to experience the second death (eternal separation for God) - Rev 21:8

Why is there so much amazing Unbelief?

We have been given opportunity to travel in many countries of the world and it is same everywhere. The Bible identifies the "why" of amazing unbelief very clearly. It is not because the Gospel is unavailable nor that God doesn't want men to believe. It is not because the truth is unknowable. It is that men:

- ⇒ Will not receive a love for the truth (2 Thes 2:10-12; Rom 1:18-20)
- ⇒ Pride / Self exaltation (Rom 1:21,22; Prov 26:12; 1 Cor 1:19-21; 3:18,19)
- ⇒ Value natural over spiritual (Mark 6:3; Rom 1:21-25; Mat. 6:19-34; 1 John 2:15-17)
- ⇒ Desire that which is contrary to the truth (Mal 2:9; Mt 13:10-17; 15:1-9)
- ⇒ Because deeds are evil (Rom 1:26-32; Jer 5:30,31; John 3:20; 2 Tim 3:1-9)
- ⇒ False teachers / division (2 Pet 2:1-3, 18,19; John 17:20-23; Gal 1:6-9; 5:1-4)
- ⇒ The true Jesus is demanding - most do not want to yield (Mat 7:13,14; Lk 13:24)
- ⇒ Genuine faith cost everything - most do not want to surrender everything (Lk 9:23-26; 57-62; 14:26-33; Phili. 3:7-11)
- ⇒ Keeping faith demands strenuous effort (2 Pet 1:5-10; Heb 3:12,14; James 2:14-26)