

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (John's Refutation of "Easy Believism")

All those who truly know the Lord understand that salvation is by grace [God's unmerited favor] alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We champion the "*gospel of God's grace*" (cf. Acts 20:24). Grace and works are mutually exclusive (cf. Rom. 11:6). To add even a drop of works to an ocean of grace pollutes the entire ocean. When we get to heaven we will not say to Jesus "*We did it!*" NO!!!! We will be saying, "Worthy is the Lamb to receive all the glory!" He alone has done it! (cf. Rev. 5:9-14, 7:9-10)

However, the Bible is clear that we must RECEIVE Christ by faith (Jn. 1:12). Condemnation is for not believing in His name (Jn. 3:18). But it must be THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH. There is a kind of faith that doesn't save (Easy Believism, cf. Lk. 8:13, 1 Cor. 15:1-2, Col. 1:23, Ja. 2:17-26, etc.), and a kind of faith that does save (cf. Heb. 10:38-39). True saving faith is from the HEART (Rom. 10:9-10) which simultaneously results in regeneration/transformation (Jn. 3:3-8, 2 Cor. 5:17).

True faith in the heart, as a rule, will demonstrate itself in the life. John the apostle wrote the gospel of belief (John) emphasizing that we have life by believing in Christ (Jn. 20:30-31). However, for John, this was no "Easy Believism" which simply gives lip service or is mere intellectual assent. No, for John true saving faith was expected to be reflected in an obedient pattern of life. The issue is not practical perfection but a change of direction reflecting a changed heart. John is consistent in this emphasis in all his NT writings.

John in his own (inspired) words...

John 5:28-29 (NKJV)

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth— **those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**

1 John 2:3-4 (NKJV)

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commandments.**

4 **He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar,** and the truth is not in him.

2 John 9 (NKJV)

9 Whoever transgresses and **does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.**

3 John 11 (NKJV)

11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. **He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.**

Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)

8 **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire** and brimstone, which is the second death."

John in all his writings consistently makes the case that a true saving faith is a living/working faith that demonstrates itself in the life. Anything else is just a BOGUS faith!