

BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACTS 16:30-31 • TV198B

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Acts 16:30-31

“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Here is the subject today: **“BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED.”**

We are turning to **Acts chapter 16**. I will be reading two verses, **verses 30 and 31 in Acts 16**.

Listen to the Scripture: *“He brought them out,”* (speaking of the Philippian jailer) and he says, *“sirs; what must I do to be saved?”* And they said, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house.”*

Now, my friends, one of the complaints, (and this is a legitimate complaint), one of the complaints against modern preachers is that they call upon men and women to believe, to believe, but they do not tell them what to believe.

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That is a legitimate complaint. I hear preachers on television and radio and I hear them in other places. They continually call on men and women to believe, to believe. They fail to tell them what to believe.

Preachers continually talk about faith; they talk about faith among other things, but they seldom define faith. They seldom instruct sinners in the doctrines of faith and they seldom clearly preach Jesus Christ our Lord who is the object of faith.

Now, if you were to ask me today, “what must I do to be saved;” you just directly put that question to me, you and I talking one on one, and you look at me and say, “tell me; just tell me, what must I do to be saved?”

Well, my friend; I could not improve on the reply of the apostle Paul to the same question. This Philippian jailer is asking Paul the same question. He said to Paul and Silas; “*sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” Paul replied; “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house.*”

Believe, believe, faith is in believing. The Scripture says clearly in **Ephesians 2: 8 and 9**; listen to this, “*for by grace, (that is by the grace of God), have you been saved through faith.*” Salvation is through faith. It is by the grace of God but it is through faith, “*and that not of yourselves; faith is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.*”

Hebrews 11:6 plainly declares, “*Without faith it is impossible to please God. He that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” So, faith is vital, faith is important. Faith is imperative and faith is essential, salvation through faith, by grace, through faith.

But, I am going to take the time today, to tell you what is involved in faith, what is involved in believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

You may say, “What must I do to be saved?” I reply, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.” That’s not sufficient; I am going to have to define believing. I am going to have to instruct you in the things that are to be believed.

I’m telling you this; “believing is not just to believe that there is one God.” James says in **James 2:19**; “*You believe that there is one God, you do well, (but the devil believes that and furthermore), he trembles.*”

Believing is not just to believe that Jesus Christ lived on the earth, died on a cross and was buried and rose again. Everybody who witnessed the crucifixion also was aware of those other facts, that He lived, the one who died lived, and the one who died was buried, the one who was buried, rose again. They all knew those things.

So, that doesn’t constitute faith alone. It is involved in faith, there is no question about that, but that is not the extent of faith.

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And, it's not just to believe that Christ was a good man. Nicodemus said that, he said; "*We know that you are a teacher come from God.*" We know that you are a healer and we know that you are a miracle worker.

This thing of believing on Christ is not just acknowledging some of his characteristics or some of His attributes. Well preacher, "what is it to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?"

You say that in order to be saved that I must believe. Watch this: He said, "*What must I do to be saved?*" Now listen carefully: "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (His name).*"

Now, you think a little bit and you listen to me; I am saying this, "what we are to believe, what we are to believe in order to be saved is clearly set forth in the name, the very name that we just declared." It wasn't just "*believe,*" it was that you "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

And it wasn't you "just believe on Jesus;" it was "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.*" He clearly set forth that full name. He said to that trembling jailer; in order to be saved, "you believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

What we are to believe is set forth, right there, in that name. I will show you this in other places in the Scripture: **Romans 10:13** says; "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.*"

Another Scripture says, "*There is none other name, under heaven, given among men, whereby, we must be saved.*"

Listen to **Luke 24**: The master is speaking here and He says to His apostles; "*Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day that repentance and remission of sin should be preached in his name, among all nations.*"

Do you see what I am saying, the name; "*there is none other name under heaven. Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

What we are saying is this my friend; that all of his character, His work, His redemptive work, His glory, His offices, His redemptive glory, is set forth in that name. You can't have half a Christ or a third of a Christ or a part of a Christ; you have to have the whole Christ.

When that trembling jailer fell at the feet of Paul and Silas, and says; "*what must I do to be saved,* Paul knew exactly what he was saying. He knew what was incorporated in this reply; he said, "If you believe, if you can believe, if you are enabled to believe, if God grants you the faith to believe on the name, on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved." I'm saying, "The Lord Jesus Christ."

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Now, let's break that down and I will show you what Paul is saying. I am sure that Paul did break it down to him and teach him more perfectly the Word of God.

First of all: He is called "*The Lord.*"

He is called "*the Lord,*" this one in whom we are to believe, this one upon whom we are to trust is called, "*the Lord,*" not a Lord, not some Lord, not any Lord, but the one and only Lord, the Lord our God. That is what we are saying.

Thomas summed it up. When Thomas fell at his feet, he called Him what He is; he called Him, "*my Lord and my God.*" The Lord Jesus Christ said himself, "*You call me Lord; you say well, for so I am.*"

Paul later on said, "*If you confess with your mouth Jesus to be Lord;*" that is who He is, He is the Lord. "*God hath made him Lord and Christ. God hath given him a name above every name, that every knee should bow and every knee shall confess that he (is what), is Lord.*"

It's not that He is a good man, not a prophet only, not a healer or a great teacher, but "*the Lord.*" Now that is who He is, "*the Lord.*"

What have we here in the name "Lord?" You are to believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. What have here in the name "Lord?"

First of all: You have his deity.

"*I and my Father are one.*" There is only one Lord. "*Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, is one God.*" The Lord our God is one God and He is the Lord of all and over all things.

Paul, speaking to the elders as he was about to leave them, said; "*you feed the church of God; which he purchased with his own blood.*" Who purchased it? God did. It is His church and He bought it. It is His blood and He shed it. It is His people and He redeemed them.

"*You feed the church of God which God purchased with his own blood.*" Jesus Christ is God. The Father said to him, "*thy throne O God is forever.*" So, I am saying this; believe on the Lord, on the name of the Lord, is to declare your confidence in his deity.

Not only that but also in His eternity. John said, "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and all things were made by him. Without him was not anything made. And this Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*"

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Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed, *“Father; glorify me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was,”* His eternity. He said, *“Before Abraham was I am.”*

Moses said, when God spoke to him out of the burning bush way back yonder in Exodus, when God spoke to him from the burning bush, he said; *“well, you want me to go down there and tell Pharaoh to let Israel go, whom shall I say has sent me?”*

God said, *“Tell Pharaoh; I AM has sent thee;”* I AM. That is what Jesus Christ is saying here; *“before Abraham was I am. If you believe not that I am you shall die in your sins.”*

And when they said to him in the Garden, *“we seek Jesus of Nazareth,”* he said; *“I am and they fell backward.”*

Believe on the name of the Lord. That is His deity, his eternity and also His authority. The Lord has authority by decree, by design, and by death. *“He died that he might be Lord of the dead and the living.”*

He said, *“The father hath given me authority over all flesh, (saved and lost, old and young, white and black), that I should give eternal life to as many as thou has given me.”*

He said in **Isaiah 7:14**; *“The Lord himself will give you a sign, a virgin shall be with child, and thou shall call his name, Immanuel, (God with us).”* That is what I am saying, *“God with us.”*

In **Isaiah 9:6**, He declared this; *“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”* He is the Father and He is the Son. That’s right!

The Father revealed Himself in the person of His Son. That is the first thing that we are saying, this thing of what am I to believe or what must I do to be saved, is *“believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”* That word Lord indicates His deity, His eternity, His authority and His power.

Secondly: Jesus.

When the angel came to Joseph and told him that Mary was with child, he said to Joseph; *“don’t be afraid to take Mary to be your wife for that holy thing which is conceived in her is conceived by the Holy Ghost and thou shalt call his name Jesus.”*

That is what he is called all the way through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; through the four Gospels He is called *“Jesus of Nazareth.”* He is called, *“Jesus of Galilee.”* He is called *“Jesus.”* That word Jesus is the Old Testament word *“Joshua* and it is *“Saviour.”*

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His name is “*Jesus*” which denotes and reveals His humanity. When we believe, the foundation of our faith is the Lord Jesus. God became a man, God became a man. Jesus Christ is a man.

I can’t explain this to you; I just know that the Scripture declares it, that Jesus Christ is “very God of very God.” He said, “*I and my Father are one.*” He is as much God and is equal with the Father. He is as much God as if He were not man at all.

He’s a man, that’s right, so complete a man, so fully a man, in a man’s nature, “*tempted, tried, and tested in all points as we are, yet without sin,*” as much as if he were not God at all; he is the God-man. God took upon Himself human flesh.

There are two Adams. God considers everybody in these two Adams. In the first Adam we die. In the second Adam we are made alive. “*By man came death; by man, (the God-man), came resurrection from the dead.*”

That’s right! “*By one man’s disobedience we were made sinners. By the other man’s obedience we were made righteous. As we have borne the image of the first Adam, we will bear the image of the second Adam.*”

“*The first Adam is of the earth, earthy and the second Adam is the Lord from heaven.*” Jesus is a human being. That’s right; “*Believe on the name of the Lord.*” He is God, deity, eternity, authority and an absolute God, an eternal God.

Jesus is a man and that is his name of humanity, not only that, but his name of humiliation. “*He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.*” His humiliation started right there in Bethlehem’s manger. “*There was no room for him in the inn.*” That is humiliation.

He was born. When He came into this world, when His mother gave birth to him, this child, He wasn’t put in a fine cradle in some hospital somewhere; He was born in a manger, “*wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.*” That’s right! He was surrounded by cattle, sheep, oxen, and poor people. That is humiliation; the King has humbled Himself.

All the way through His life He worked in a carpenter’s shop. He owned no property. He only owned one garment. He wore a seamless robe. Our Lord Jesus Christ’s friends were Publicans and sinners.

“*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, yet made himself of no reputation. He took upon himself the form of a servant and became obedient unto death, even the death of a cross.*” That is humiliation; Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

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That's right; that is His name of humiliation and that is His name of obedience. That is how He gave us a perfect righteousness. As a man, *"he obeyed God's Law. He was tempted and tried."*

These temptations were real or the obedience wasn't real. These temptations were real or the righteousness is not real.

Jesus is His name of obedience and this is His name in death, His substitutionary name; He is Joshua, He is Jesus. He redeemed his people. He is their Saviour.

So, when I say, *"Believe or what must I do to be saved;"* I reply the same thing that Paul replied; *"believe on the name."* It is all in the name, the whole story is in the name.

The whole foundation is in the name. The whole Gospel is in the name. The whole message is in the name; He is the Lord; He is Jesus. Do you see what I am saying? He is the God-man; He is the God-man.

Now watch this: He is the Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

You can't have Him as Jesus if you don't bow to Him as Lord. You can't have Him as Jesus if you don't see Him as the Christ. That's right; He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here you have his office. In the name Lord you have His God-head; you have His deity, His eternality and His authority. In the name Jesus you have his humanity, you have his humiliation, you have his obedience, you have His death and you have His submission.

In the name *"Christ,"* you have His office. He is the ordained one of God, the Christ, the Messiah; He is the anointed one. He is the one that the Father promised. He is the one that the Father prophesied. He is the one that the Father sent.

The Old Testament, all 39 books, all the way from Genesis 3:15, it says; *"someone's coming, someone's coming,"* someone called *"the Christ."* Job called him *"the Redeemer."* Jeremiah called him *"the Branch."* Jacob called him *"Shiloh."* Moses called him *"that Prophet."* I will tell you; *"He is the Christ."*

Now, the word Christ is the Messiah; He is the Redeemer. In other words, when the disciples found Him, one of the disciples said to the other; *"we found him of whom Moses wrote; is not this Christ?"*

When they went out to the wilderness to hear John the Baptist, they said; *"are you the Christ?"* He said, *"No; I am not the Christ."* They said, *"Well, who are you?"* He said, *"I am a voice in the wilderness, crying, make straight the path for our God."* Are you the Christ?

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The woman at the well, talking to Jesus of Nazareth, said; *“we know that the Christ is coming and when he comes, the Messiah, the Christ; he is going to tell us all things.”* Our Lord said, *“I am he; I am the Christ.”*

The Pharisees came to Him one day and said; *“if you be the Christ; tell us plainly. Are you the Christ?”* He said, *“I told you but you didn’t believe me. You didn’t believe me because you are not of my sheep. My sheep hear my voice and they follow me. I give them eternal life.”*

My friends; He is the Christ. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Christ is the anointed one; Christ is the redeeming one. The Christ is the emancipator. The Christ is the one who would set us free.

In **John Chapter 20:31**; listen to this Scripture; *“But these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ; (he is the Christ), and believing you might have life through his name.”* Did you hear that again; *“through his name?”*

“These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and believing you might have life through his name.” It is in the name. *“There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”* It is the Lord Jesus Christ.

When that Philippian jailer came trembling and fell at the feet of Paul and Silas and said, *“What must I do to be saved; Paul declared the whole Gospel message in that one sentence; “believe on (the name of) the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

One day our Lord said to his apostles; *“Whom do men say that I am; whom do men say that I am?”* They said, *“Well; some say that you are John the Baptist and some say that you are Elijah; and some say that you are one of the prophets.”*

They have all kind of compliments to drop your way but he said; *“whom do you say that I am?”* What did Peter reply? *“Thou art the Christ, (none other than the Christ), the son of the living God.”*

Our Lord Jesus said, *“Blessed art thou Simon Bar-jonah; flesh and blood didn’t reveal that to you but my Father which is in heaven.”*

John wrote in **1 John 2:22**; *“Who is a liar?”* It is pretty serious to call a man a liar isn’t it? He said, *“Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ. He is an antichrist and denies both Father and Son.”*

Do you see what I am saying? That is what I am doing; I am defining this word believe. *“What must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

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The name of the Lord Jesus Christ reveals His character, reveals His redemptive work, it reveals His glory, reveals His office and salvation is to believe. Salvation is to receive Him as He is in all of that office work, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now let me say a few words about the person to whom these instructions were given. Here was a man in trouble. Here was a man who had beaten these apostles. He was a pagan, a heathen, a gentile, and he had beaten these apostles and cast them into prison.

He had gone out there and sat down and had gone to sleep. He was the keeper of the prison. They were given under his care. He was in charge. That night, God sent an earthquake and shook the prison, literally shook the doors off the cells and shook the chains off the arms and legs of Paul, Silas, and the other prisoners.

But, Paul and Silas didn't leave the jail; they just stayed right in there. The jailer, who was awakened out of his sleep, saw the doors opened and he saw that the earthquake had shaken the doors off.

Thinking that the prisoners had fled, he took his sword and was going to kill himself because he was responsible for these men. If they were gone, it was his problem. He was in trouble and would have killed himself.

Paul said to him; *“Do thyself no harm; we are all here.”* He was startled. He came in and he fell down at the feet of these men. He cried and said, *“What must I do to be saved; what must I do to be saved?”*

Paul delivered this good news to a man in trouble, a man in trouble. I am telling you this; the good news of salvation in Christ and deliverance in the Lord Jesus Christ is only good news to those in trouble.

Are you in trouble? Have you ever been in trouble? What kind of trouble are you talking about preacher? I am talking about being in trouble with the law of God. You are whether you know it or not.

The Scripture says, *“Cursed is everyone who continueth not in all things written in the book of the law to do them. To offend in one point of the law is to be guilty of the whole law. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* So; we are in trouble with the law of God.

Not only that; we are in trouble with the justice of God; be sure *“your sins will find you out; the soul that sinneth shall surely die. God will by no means clear the guilty.”*

Not only are we in trouble but we are helpless to do anything about our troubles. Jeremiah said; *“Can the Ethiopian change his skin?”* Do you reckon he can? No he can't. *“Can the leopard change his spots?”* Well, you know he can't.

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Neither can you do good; *“there is none good no not one. There is none that understandeth; there is none that seeketh after God.”* Even our wills are in bondage to sin because Christ said, *“you will not come to me that you might have life.”*

Paul found the man in trouble and set forth for that man the only way out of his trouble and that was to believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am saying that to everyone out there today who is in trouble with the law of God, who is in trouble with the justice of God, who has no power or ability to satisfy the holiness of God, who knows there is no way out except by God’s grace.

I am saying to you; here is the way; here is the only way. Here is the way by the authority of God’s Word; *“believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”*

1 John 5:11 says, *“This is the record. God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in his Son, (the Lord Jesus Christ), and he that hath the Son of God hath life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*

Now; if you want a good definition of faith, I will give it to you. This is one of the best I have ever found anywhere. It is in **2nd Timothy 1:12** in which Paul says, *“I am not ashamed, nevertheless, I am not ashamed; I know whom I have believed;”* I know who He is, He is the Lord. He is Jesus the man and He is the Christ ordained of God. I know who He is. *“I am confident; I am persuaded that he is able to do all that he promised.”*

In other scripture it says, *“He is able to present me faultless before his throne with exceeding joy. He is able to keep me from falling. He is able to raise my vile body; he is able, to keep that which I’ve what; that which I have committed to him.”*

So, faith is to know Him, it is to trust Him, and it is to commit ourselves to Him. That is what I am saying, it is to trust Christ.

The hymn writer says:

**“Plenteous grace with him is found
Grace to cover all my sins.
Let the healing streams abound
Cleanse and make me pure within.”**

You need to trust him, to receive him, to confess him, and then my friend, to rest in Him, to rest in Christ. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house.”*