

8/17/2025

Sermon – Regarding Authentic Belief

Scripture – Mathew 7:15 – 23, Ephesian 2:8-9, James 2:14-26, 1 John 1:8-10, Mt 6:14-15

Main Message – We do not earn grace, we obey God out of love, and that is our testimony.

Read Mathew 7:15-23 – Jesus' is teaching us a very important thing here. He wanted to wake us up. He knew that He was going to the cross. Jesus sacrifice was God's Grace unto those who believe. It is not in performing religious acts. Its an eye-opening warning that you can "do" good things, but an authentic faith, not a perfect one is required. But let's prove it.

Ephesian 2:8 is a great start for us. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."* This is vital for you to understand. Our salvation is completely contingent on God's Grace. Period. But that is not the end of the story. A critical piece of the story is that we are saved through **faith**, and look at Eph 2:9, *Not of works, lest any man should boast.* Works will never save you. Don't think that it will. Don't pretend that it will. Don't do things thinking its making you look better to God. It doesn't. It's a lie you are telling yourself. God only sees the blood of Christ upon those who believe. He is our Kinsman Redeemer. Easy right? Well, not so fast. We must pay attention to something else. **James 2:14** says, *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?* Well, we should read the whole section to vs. **26**.

Are you saved by being baptized? Nope, otherwise it wouldn't be Grace. It's a great demonstration of your Faith, but only if you have a relationship to Jesus.

Do you have to act perfectly to be saved. Nope, otherwise it isn't Grace.

If you sin, does this mean you are not saved. Nope **Read 1 John 1:8-10**.

Anytime you try to replace **you** being perfect rather than **Christ**, you are not in a healthy relationship with Jesus. Here is another example of a healthy relationship with Jesus. The Lord's prayer has been modified by the church a bit, but **Mt 6:14-15** completes the thought. Forgiveness is vital. You want Jesus to forgive you your own sins. He wants you to forgive others theirs. You cannot harbor unforgiveness and have a relationship with Christ. No relationship with Christ is a place you don't want to be. True forgiveness is a sign of a changed heart because of what God has done for you. It doesn't mean you have forgotten, but you no longer take any action to hold them accountable for what they have done to you. You have forgiven them their debts, just like God has forgiven yours. This is a great self-test to know in your heart if you've are living a relationship with Christ. If you are unforgiving and harbor continual resentment towards another, your relationship with Christ is broken. So, you need to change that. Do not assume you will forget just because you have forgiven. Jesus doesn't say Forget their sins, because he knows we can't. Do you hope to stand before Jesus and boast about how good you were at forgiveness? Well, that isn't going to save you either because you made it about yourself and not about Grace.

So, the folks at the beginning who come before Jesus saying all the wonderful things "THEY DID" have never had a relationship with Christ about what "HE DID". They were still trying to earn it.

So when an authentic Christian stands before Christ, we simply fall to our knees and say Thank you Lord Jesus.