

Believest Thou This?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 11:25-26, "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

Jesus asked the most important question as he said this to Martha. Those three words spell victory or defeat in the spiritual life of a person. He was not only asking about the resurrection, but about all that he said to mankind. Anyone who says that they believe some things that he said, but not everything that he told, doesn't really believe anything at all.

Think about it for a moment. People tell us various things, and have all of our lives. Some things were wrong, not because the teller meant to deceive us, but because they didn't have all the facts, or misunderstood what they were talking about. Others told us things to trick us or to deceive us and they did it on purpose. We learned to not trust them. Then there were those who we could always count on to tell us

the truth. If those that we trusted told us something that was incorrect it was because they had bad information. These are the things that happen with men because they are people like us and we make mistakes.

Then there is Jesus and his word we can trust without doubt. In fact, we can stake our life on what he said. God is not man and has none of his weaknesses. He knows the truth, all of it, and tells exactly what is right. From him we know where we came from, where we are, and where we are going. It is all in the bible, past, present, and the future of mankind. All of his word is true, although not everyone believes what he has revealed to us.

Those who don't believe in the resurrection feel that it doesn't matter how they live, for they suppose that if death is the final part of their existence then it is all over. Since they chose to believe that there is no resurrection, they then figure that the judgment is false too. Therefore the unbeliever doesn't think that there is a need to consider God in his life. What we believe is most important in life. The belief that we have leads us to live the way that we do.

The one who believes and trusts God will believe

all that he says. The Lord's words will guide his life and he will obey the commands of God. There will be no picking one, or a few, and forsaking the rest of the commands, but will follow all the teachings of the Lord. Take the plan of salvation for instance. The bible tells us that we must believe in God. If we believe in him then we will look to him for mercy. When we believe him then we will repent of our sins and will want to walk with him. If we have gotten that far we will confess him as our Lord as well as confessing to him our sins. Next we will be baptized for the remission of sins. Why? Because the Lord said for us to do this and he showed us by his example. Then we live for him the rest of our lives.

Some people believe and obey these commands, but some only accept some of them. Why do they do only part of what God has said? Somebody told them that they didn't have to do some of the commandments. Grandpa may not have thought that some were necessary so they didn't see the need for them either. There is a great danger in taking some man's opinion as gospel and forsaking what God has said. But, it shows that a person lives by what he believes, either good, or bad.

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THE PHARAOHS OF THE BIBLE!

GENERALLY, WHEN ONE THINKS OF THE ANCIENT PHARAOHS OF EGYPT, ONE THINKS OF THE PHARAOHS OF THE OPPRESSION AND THE EXODUS. BUT THE BIBLE TELLS OF MORE RULERS OF EGYPT THAN THESE, CALLING THEM BY NAME! FIRST, THERE WAS SHISHAK--THE BIBLE TELLS OF HIS EXPEDITION INTO ISRAEL (I KINGS 14:25,26). HE WAS CERTAINLY AN ABLE STATESMAN SINCE HE AVOIDED A CLASH WITH KING SOLOMON WHILE KEEPING SOLOMON'S SWORN ENEMY AS A PROTECTED GUEST! (I KINGS 11:40). HE WAS SHREWD IN HIS PLANS, NOT MAKING A MILITARY MOVE UNTIL THE DIVISION OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL, WHEN BOTH KINGDOMS WERE AT THEIR WEAKEST! HE RULED EGYPT FROM 945 B.C. TO 924 B.C. ZERAH, THE CUSHITE, SUCCEEDED SHISHAK IN 924 B.C. THIS PHARAOH UNDERTOOK AN EXPEDITION AGAINST JUDAH DURING THE REIGN OF KING ASA, BUT HIS FORCES WERE ROUTED AT MARESHAH (II CHRON. 14:9-15;16:8) SO DECISIVELY THAT IT WAS NEVER TRIED AGAIN BY THIS PHARAOH! THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT KING HOSHEA OF ISRAEL, ABOUT 724 B.C., ATTEMPTED TO ENLIST THE AID OF 50 KING OF EGYPT TO DEFEAT SHALMANESER, KING OF ASSYRIA (II KINGS 17:3-5) ONLY TO BE BITTERLY DEFEATED BY THE ASSYRIAN TROOPS! THE BIBLE ALSO MENTIONS TIRHAKAH, KING OF ETHIOPIA, THIS PHARAOH WAS LAST KING OF THE XXV DYNASTY OR THE ETHIOPIAN DYNASTY IN EGYPT. (II KINGS 19:9) HE WAS ALSO ROUNDLY DEFEATED BY THE ASSYRIAN ARMIES! PHARAOH-NECOH (II KINGS 23:29) WAS THE EGYPTIAN PHARAOH THAT SLEW KING JOSIAH AT MEGIDDO WHEN JOSIAH TRIED TO OPPOSE HIM IN HIS MARCH AGAINST THE ASSYRIANS. THE LAST PHARAOH NAMED IN THE BIBLE IS PHARAOH-HOPHRA (JER. 44:30). HE WAS A CONQUERING WARRIOR WHOM, JEREMIAH SAID, SHOULD FALL INTO THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES, WHICH FINALLY DID HAPPEN!!

HAST THOU, THEN, COME TO PLAGUE ME ONCE AGAIN-- I WILL NOT LET THE PEOPLE GO!

JOHN LEHTI

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