

BELIEVING IN OR ACCEPTING CHRIST, IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31; 1 John 4:17

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Every Christian knows what it takes to be saved, to be forgiven, to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, to have his/her name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and to have eternal life, right? The Bible clearly shows that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners and that people are saved by Jesus Christ alone, totally apart from any works of merit by anyone. Jesus did it all, so all that anyone has to do to be saved is to depend upon Jesus.

I. SALVATION FOR MANKIND IS TOTALLY GOD'S DOINGS

1. "What must I do to be saved?"
 - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Receive Christ as one's personal savior.
 - Accept Christ.
2. "Accept Christ" has become a "general summarization" term summing up the other terms often used.
3. The term "accepting Christ" can create a false image of the Lord Jesus as it seems to indicate that Jesus is standing, waiting for a person to make up his/her mind whether to accept Him or not.
 - Instead of the lost sinner kneeling before the Lord Jesus asking to be forgiven, asking to be saved, it can create the impression that Jesus can be accepted by an impulse, a whim, with no loss or inconvenience to one's usual worldly way of life.

II. ACCEPTING CHRIST IS TO FORM A PERSONAL ATTACHMENT TO HIM

1. There is no other experience in one's human life like "accepting Christ."
 - To accept Christ is of the intellect, it is deliberate, and it is emotional.
 - The believer is convinced in his/her mind that Jesus is all He claims to be.
 - The believer is determined to follow Jesus, no matter the cost.
2. It is accepting Jesus Christ for all that He is.
 - There is no part of Jesus or His teachings that is not accepted.
 - It is acknowledging Jesus as Savior and Lord forever, not periodically or when one feels like it.
 - It is giving all of one's self to Jesus, leaving no part of him/herself out of the acceptance.
3. It is an all-exclusive acceptance.
 - Jesus does not become just another one of his/her interests but his/her ONLY, exclusive interest forever.
 - All other interests one had, has or will ever have take secondary place to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - It is absolutely imperative that Jesus Christ be accepted in this total, all-exclusive manner.
4. Accepting Christ is to accept His friends as our friends, His enemies as our enemies, His ways as our ways, His rejection as our rejection, His cross as our cross, His life as our life and His future as our future.

CONCLUSION:

1. One is indeed saved by the works of Jesus and through one's belief in Jesus, by one's receiving Jesus and then one is to **ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST** and all there is about Him.
2. We need to be reminded that to "accept Christ" is to be attached to Him personally, in every way.