

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Are You Really Sure?

Bill Brinkworth

I have talked to many about what the Bible says one must do to know for sure that they will one day go to Heaven. Some rely only on their religion's doctrines. Many adhere to their own beliefs, even when they are shown Bible verses that teach contrary to what they believe. Many will not be swayed to believe what the Bible teaches.

They will not be moved from beliefs that are contrary to the Bible because they are convinced that their religion is right. Often, they cannot fathom that as large, popular, or as old as their cult is that it could be wrong. However, as anchored to their beliefs as they are, not one of those that I have witnessed to have ever made one effort to sway me to their beliefs. It would seem to me if they were convinced they were following correct doctrine, they would not want anyone else to go in a wrong spiritual direction, especially when it involved their eternal soul.

The logical reasons for their not sharing their beliefs with others must be because:

1. They are trusting wholly on what their religion teaches, and that it is right. However, they still harbor some doubt.
2. They may not really know all their faction believes, and they do not want to be challenged.
3. They may not be convinced that the Bible is God's Word and that its teaching is His only way.
4. They do not really care for my soul. They are only concerned about themselves.
5. They may believe, as they were taught, that no one can know for sure that they would go to Heaven when they die.
6. They may believe that there is one God, but many ways to get to His Heaven, so they are not concerned that Bible-believers think differently than they do!
7. They may believe there is no Hell and that all will go to Heaven or a place like it.
8. They do not really take the afterlife seriously!

Whatever the reason, it seems many with beliefs, not in alignment with what the Bible teaches do not have the burden to reach others. It may be just as well so their false teachings are not spread to confuse more people and hinder so many from being saved and having God's promise of an eternity with Him.

Are you sure what you believe is correct? Many are trusting their eternal soul with teachings that are recent, ever changing, and are often just a man's or an organization's beliefs. A real, reliable faith should be based on a source that comes straight from God, has

been around from man's beginning, and has been proven reliable throughout all ages. The only media that still exists today and fits that description is God's Word, the Bible. Does what you believe about God, and eternity line-up with God's preserved word, or are you trusting on an unreliable man-made religion?

"The appearance of religion only on Sunday proves that it is only an appearance." — Adams

Windblown Christians

Bill Brinkworth

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive:"

Ephesians 4:14

Sometimes children, because of their innocence and immaturity, follow the wrong person or group and find themselves doing the wrong thing. Many times they trustingly follow, and later pay the consequences for their mistake in following the wrong crowd.

Christians often make the same mistake. Because they are not grounded in the way the Lord wants them to go, they sometimes blow in the direction of anything that may look, sound, or seem religious. They have a desire to live for the Lord, but because they do not know exactly what that way is, they follow incorrectly.

This immaturity and innocence in the way of the Lord is mainly because of ignorance of His Word. To know His will, one must find it in the preserved pages of the Bible. The Bible is His recorded roadmap to get us through lives of detours and misleading roads. It will help us find the right way.

Because of not being grounded in the Word of God, many follow blindly in whichever direction seems right to them. For this reason, many cults grow larger in number, and many godless congregations increase.

Many years past, some well-meaning people followed a man in Guyana and his promises of a more peaceful life and a closer walk with God. The man's name was Reverend Jim Jones. Although their desires were well-intended, the result, because they followed a man's way to please God rather than God's way, was tragic. Many died as their leader's demands led them to take their own lives. They followed blindly down the wrong alleyway. Their suicides would not have occurred, if they were obeying God's Word.

People with a desire to change their lives are often easily led astray by the first smiling face that shows any concern or care for them. Sometimes that smile is a front for other motives. Other times, with promises of serving the Lord, the motives are to get them as a member of a cult or organization. Once into the organization's grasp they go wherever the false doctrine blows them.

Others, desiring also to serve God, are snagged by the tricks and schemes of a cult leader. Just as a magician devises methods to make something impossible appear to happen before his audience's eyes, so do some leaders to get the faithful support of their followers.

Fake faith-healers, to get the support of followers, have appeared to heal a member of the audience. Many lost hope as it was later revealed that the one healed was planted there, and the healing was a staged act. There was not genuine healing, but the ungrounded audience fell for the deception. If the congregation knew and obeyed their Bible and knew that most of those type of "miracles" were for the early church before they had the written word of God, they would not even have been there.

Many are misled by clerical garb and what they think is Godly behavior. Just because the leader looks and acts spiritual, they believe what they see on the outside is a true reflection of what is on the inside. It is a shattered faith and hope they are left with when the one they were trusting in is embarrassed when his phoniness is revealed in a public scandal.

Keep your eyes on the Lord and not on man. Read, feed, and heed His Word and you will grow in the direction the Lord leads you. If you do, you will be led by the Lord, not blown by an ever-changing wind of false doctrine.

Let Them Know

Bill Brinkworth

“A Psalm of David. *I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.*” *Psalm 138:1*

There is an unusual phrase in the first verse of this Psalm. The phrase is “... before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.” There is only one God. It is our Creator, our Saviour, and our Deliverer. There are no other “gods,” so whom is David referencing here?

All Christians are surrounded by those who put faith in false gods. For some, it is many of 33 million “gods” and “goddesses” of Hinduism. Others have made the wrong, unbiblical teachings of cults, some even claiming to be Christian, their “gods” they follow and obey. Many claim not to have any trust in any “god,” but they rely on things, including money, to be what they “worship.”

We are encompassed by false, unbiblical beliefs everywhere we go. David realized this fact. Knowing he was outnumbered by heathens and not able to talk to most about the Lord, the King made his beliefs public when he had the opportunity.

When the weather was good, and the crops were bountiful, David made it public that God was the one that blessed the harvest and the weather. After being successful in battle, he gave God credit for the triumph. When prayers were answered, David praised the Lord for what He had done.

He tried to make the ungodly aware that there was a God in Heaven blessing him and helping His people.

We, too, have such a responsibility. The world is discouraged by “God is dead” nonsense, and never hearing anything positive and anything to substantiate that God is alive and still working in lives. They have not been taught about our mighty God and have not been made aware of what He is doing in our lives today.

The unsaved have heard watered-down statements about how there is a God, but they never have seen any proof of His working. An appreciative Christian can change their ignorance. He can make it known to the lost world that God is alive and working in the lives and hearts of man daily.

Before I was saved, I am ashamed to admit it, my speech was often tainted by filthy, four-lettered words. It was a vocabulary that the world was used to hearing and never raised an eyebrow over my obscene language. After I got saved, I was quickly rebuked by the indwelling Holy Spirit that I should not be speaking those words.

Rather than utter filth, I was convicted of using the voice God gave me to praise His name, rather than curse it. No matter who I was with, or where I was, almost every other paragraph had, and still does, have a few words praising the Lord for what He did.

When in board meetings with top management, I “praised the Lord” when they mentioned that earnings were improved. The plumber heard a “praise the Lord” when he fixed a leaking pipe. After waiting in a McDonald’s line to give my order, I politely say, “Praise the Lord, it’s my turn.” The woman taking my on-line order also heard my “Praise the Lord.” I look for every opportunity I can to give the credit to God.

I wonder how many people have never heard God given any credit for what He had done. What must they think when they hear a stranger give the God in Heaven credit for what He did? Many must be reminded that there is a God, and He is doing something in someone’s life. “Why isn’t He doing anything in my life?” They may have wondered. Who knows where their thought process journeyed. However, praising God puts Him at the forefront of their minds.

We, like David, are surrounded by those that do not worship the only living God. They must hear that He is alive and doing well in lives. We must tell them. We can start by unashamedly pronounce that He is alive and still working.

“Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song.” — *Spurgeon*