

Belief Alone Is Not Enough

By: David Burruss

What I'm about to say may rub someone the wrong way, but the truth of God's Word will always do that sometimes. As Christians, and especially for me as a preacher, our calling is not to please people. Our calling is to teach what Scripture really says, even when it steps on toes.

The sad reality is that the world, and Satan himself, has convinced many that everyone is going to heaven simply because they believe. But that is not what the Bible teaches. James wrote, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe, and tremble!" (James 2:19). Belief alone is not the ticket into eternal life. If it were, Satan and his demons would qualify.

Jesus Himself spoke of the narrowness of the way that leads to life. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Only a few, He said, will enter. That is a sobering truth, but it is one we must not ignore.

Here is where the struggle comes in. Most of us have trained ourselves to follow our emotions rather than Scripture. Our feelings can tell us that as long as someone believes in God, everything is fine. But the Bible says otherwise. Jesus asked in Luke 6:46, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" Following Christ is more than words. It is obedience.

Friends, if we want to be Christians who actually make it to heaven, we cannot rely on man-made traditions or watered-down ideas of salvation. We cannot cling to the lie that once we are saved, we are always saved, no matter what we do. The Bible is clear. Salvation must be lived out. Paul wrote, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). That means it is active. It is ongoing. It is not something we can take lightly or assume is automatic.

So where does this leave us? It leaves us with a choice. Will we keep living by what feels comfortable, or will we train ourselves to live by what the Bible actually says? Heaven is too precious, and eternity is too long, to gamble on half-truths.

Let us be people who believe, yes, but also obey. Let us walk the narrow road with Jesus, even when it is hard. Because on the other side of that narrow gate is the joy and rest that only God can give.