

# THE “WHAT CHRISTIAN’S BELIEVE” SERIES

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“INTRODUCTION TO SERIES”**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

***Christian Doctrine, Discipleship, Belief, Faith, Reason***

**INTRODUCTION**

***Theme Text***

In the Beautiful Seaport City of Caesarea,  
on the Mediterranean Coastline of Israel,  
The Apostle Paul – Gave Defense of the Christian Faith

**Acts 26:19-20, 28**

“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, <sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance <sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a **Christian**.

## Our Purpose in the Studies Ahead

Is to Re-Commission Our Faith to the World!

Discipleship / Maturity / Growth / Development

This Discipleship, Maturity, Growth, Development,  
Cannot Happen in Our Lives  
Until We Know What The Bible Teaches –  
And Why It Teaches It!

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***The Bible Declares Itself  
To be the ultimate authoritative, governing rule for Mankind***

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Yet Without Force or Imposition

It Assumes Man's Will and Responsibility

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**WHAT IF...**

**1.) *Belief and Hope and Faith are Intrinsic to Humanity?***

**1a.) *Where would this attribute arise from?***

The Ability to Believe

“What is Belief?”

**The 1933 Oxford Dictionary**

defines Belief as; A mental or an emotional action, a condition, state. A habit of trusting in or the confiding in of a person or thing, to trust in or to rely upon someone or something...

To place your “determination” upon

# What Is “It” – That Your Living For ?

***Where would this attribute arise from?***

God has Placed it Within Man’s Soul

*What If **Hope** is Intrinsic to Humanity?*

***1b.) Why would mankind need hope?***

I Ask You,  
Why Is **Hope** so Important to You, to Me?

Because Hope Generates Endurance

**Without Hope Every Human Being Dies – *in an instant!***

## Hope – The Prospect of Being Rescued

That’s Why the Return of Jesus Christ is Referred to as the Blessed Hope,  
or Blessed Rescue!

The Bible Says That Mankind is Lost!

## Does Mankind Act Lost?

It does – because it is lost and lonely

## The Human Heart Must Have Hope

The Great Apostle and Pastor Paul Said;

**1 Thessalonians 2:19-20**

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

**1 Timothy 1:1**

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

**Romans 8:17-24a**

Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory. <sup>18</sup> I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> All of creation waits with eager longing for God to reveal his children. <sup>20</sup> For creation was condemned to lose its purpose, not of its own will, but because God willed it to be so. Yet there was the hope <sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. <sup>23</sup> Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup> For we were saved in this hope

***1c.) Every human being has faith and lives to express it***

Again, The Oxford Dictionary

**What is Your "Object" of Faith?**

**The Bible Says;**

**Hebrews 11:1 KJV**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Hebrews 11:1 CEV**

Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.

**Hebrews 11:1 GNT**

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.

**Is Your Faith, In What You Trust In, Worthy of Your Devotion?**

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**Is Your Faith, In What You Trust In Worthy, of Your Devotion?**

*If It's in a **Car** – it's going to **rust!**  
If It's in a **House** – it's going to **eaten!**  
If It's in a **Million** – it's not **enough!**  
If It's in a your **Youth** – you're going to **wear out!***

## WHAT IF...

### **2.) Life continues beyond the grave?**

What Insights do we have in this Life  
About the grave and death with the Bible?

Only the Words of Some Other Man's Experience.  
Some Other's Hallucination or Interpretation.

### **2a.) Where should mankind go after death?**

*Who or What Would Responsible for That?*

*If we are going to make up our own ending,  
Then what is like?*

*How is someone rewarded, and for what?  
What would death's door open up to?*

Everyone Has an Opinion on This  
But Who's Right?

#### **Matthew 12:39-40**

But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

## **2b.) What are a few indicators that there's a life beyond**

The answer is closer than you think

Man's a Physical Being  
Man's a Psychological Being  
Man's a Spiritual Being

If You're Banking on Just One of These Existences – *You're Wrong Already!*  
We Know That Man has a Soul, an Ethereal, (Invisible) Existence  
But What of Man's Deeper Existence?

**Mankind is a Spiritual Being**

## **2c.) Why would you gamble with eternity**

***Why would you gamble with eternity?***

We now know, through the sciences

that time is a physical property that it is subject to the laws of physics that it is slowing down. That time will someday cease. If left alone, Time will eventually run out.

There Are "Hints" that Eternity is Real

Again, The Bible Says;

### **John 11:23-29**

That Jesus said to Martha, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." <sup>28</sup> And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly and came to Him.

### **John 6:37-41**

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” <sup>41</sup> The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”

## **WHAT IF...**

**3.) *Man has been given an opportunity to change?***

**3a.) *What do you think about change?***

## **Change – Spiritual Evolution** *Is the lifestyle of the christian*

### **Mark 9:24**

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said to Jesus, with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

## **CHANGE !**

### **Matthew 9:19-22**

So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples. <sup>20</sup> And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. <sup>21</sup> For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” <sup>22</sup> But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.

## **CHANGE !**

### Mark 5:1-20

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. <sup>2</sup> And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>3</sup> who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, <sup>4</sup> because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. <sup>5</sup> And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. <sup>7</sup> And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." <sup>8</sup> For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup> Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many." <sup>10</sup> Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup> Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. <sup>12</sup> So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." <sup>13</sup> And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. <sup>14</sup> So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup> Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. <sup>17</sup> Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. <sup>18</sup> And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. <sup>19</sup> However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." <sup>20</sup> And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

## CHANGE!

**3b.) *Would you change your life if you could?***

### 2 Peter 2:22

...the true proverb says: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a pig, having been washed, returns again to wallow in the mud."

WHY  
***Because a Dog's Do That Kind of Stuff  
Pigs Love the Mud.***

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Dogs Cannot Change into a Bird  
Pigs Cannot Become a Fish

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***But a Human Being, Created by The Almighty God  
Can Return to his Original Place...***

A Child of God

**Ezekiel 11:19-20 NIV**

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. **20** Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

Jack – I'm like that dog, that pig. I can't change!

**Ezekiel 36:25-27 NIV**

Thus saith the Lord, **I will sprinkle clean water on you**, and you will be clean; **I will cleanse you** from all your impurities and from all your idols. **<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and I will put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone, I will give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and I will move you to follow my decrees** and be careful to keep my laws.

***3c.) Will you exercise your option?***

I can change the landscape by using a tractor

But I must willingly to **get on to the tractor**

But I must willingly **start the engine**

But I must willingly **put it into gear**

But I must willingly **use my faculties**

God Will Never Force You  
*But he can be pretty persuasive*

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## **THE PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Where are We Tonight in Our ?

**1.) *Belief and Hope and Faith are Intrinsic to Humanity?***

**2.) *Life continues beyond the grave?***

**3.) *Man has been given an opportunity to change?***