

Does It Matter What I Believe?

by Teresa Glenn

The story is told of a family of Hispanic descent who came to America. The mother became very ill and went to the doctor. The doctor prescribed some medication. Happily the husband took her home for her to recover from her illness. They read the label on the medicine bottle and it said take "once" a day. In the Spanish language the word "once" means twelve. They *believed* they were following instructions as it was written on the bottle. The young mother died of an overdose.

In the book of Genesis we read of the event of Joseph being sold into slavery by his own brothers. Jacob, his father, *believed* some animal had killed his precious son. He mourned for years, needlessly. They were a wealthy family; he could have sent to Egypt and recovered his son. But because he *believed* his son was dead he did not look for him. Many years of suffering went by before he learned the truth. What we *believe* definitely matters! We can *believe* our teenage children are at a friend's house but instead they could be at a party where drugs are offered to all freely. A young child might *believe* that the busy street is a safe place to play. We understand the obvious dangers of these circumstances. We would immediately teach our children of the dangers of the above situations. We would want to protect them and provide them with the knowledge that would keep them from harm.

The absolute most precious thing we possess is our 'soul'. It is very important that we know and *believe* the truth concerning the eternal destination of that soul. GOD has given us His word on the matter. JESUS teaches in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." Again He teaches in John 14:6; "...I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes unto the Father but by Me." We learn in John 17:17; "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." If we want to know "TRUTH" we must go to the word of GOD to find that truth. His words can set us free of sin and assist us in our growth as a child of GOD. JESUS told the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:24; "GOD is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." In order to obey the words of GOD we must know the 'truth' about what GOD expects of us.

In Acts 8, Philip answered the Eunuch's, "See here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?" with "If you *believe* with all your heart you may." Then the Eunuch answered; " I *believe* that JESUS CHRIST is the Son of GOD." We must know the truth about salvation in order to obey it. We must *believe* the Bible to be the inspired word of GOD in order to have confidence in its teaching. We must *believe* the "truth" in order to know what to do to be free of our sins. If we do not *believe* how can we obey? We will find our souls in harm's way if, like Jacob, we allow ourselves to be deceived and do not search for truth!

We must love 'truth'; embrace 'truth' and obey 'truth'. Remember the words of JESUS; "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

Study, *believe* and obey only the 'truth' and have a marvelous week!!

Hear: Romans 10:17 -- Believe: John 3:16 -- Repent: Luke 13:3 -- Confess: Romans 10:10
Be Baptized: Acts 2:38 -- Live Faithful: 1 Corinthians 15:58