

## WEEK 8 OUR ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

May 28, 2017

*Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

**1 Timothy 4:16 (NKJV)**

DOCTRINE IS TEACHING IMPARTED BY AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE IN THIS CASE THE BIBLE

DOCTRINE IS THE WORLDVIEW BY WHICH WE GOVERN OUR LIVES

WHAT WE BELIEVE HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON WHAT WE DO

WHAT WE THINK AND HOW WE THINK DETERMINES OUR CHOICES

These are not theory but truth upon which we build our lives, make our choices regarding words, attitudes and actions.

*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*

**Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)**

*"Thinks" The Hebrew verb is found here only, and probably means, "as he is all along in his heart, so is he (at last) in act."*

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*

**. Romans 12:2 (NKJV)**

### OUR ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

**GOD THE FATHER** We believe that God is Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

He is the God revealed in the Old and New Testament.

He is not the same god of Islam, or other false religions.

To truly believe in Him is to surrender to Him as the Lord and the King of life.

*Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

**Psalm 90:2 (NKJV)**

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"<sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NKJV)**

**GOD THE SON** We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was born of a virgin. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

He is the only way to know God and be in a relationship with Him.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.<sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.<sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

**Colossians 1:15-17 (NKJV)**

**GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT** We believe the Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

**2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)**

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.<sup>8</sup> And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:<sup>9</sup> of sin, because they do not believe in Me;<sup>10</sup> of righteousness, because I go to My*

*Father and you see Me no more; <sup>11</sup> of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

**John 16:7-15 (NKJV)**

**We believe that God the Father, God the Son, Jesus and God the Holy Spirit make up the trinity or the tri-unity. God is one yet three in one.**

**THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD** We believe the Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without mixture of error.

*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.*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)**

**HUMAN BEINGS** We believe people are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God is the reason for man's alienation from God.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Romans 3:23 (NKJV)**

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

**SALVATION** We believe salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)**

**ETERNAL SECURITY** We believe the true believer is eternally secure. Because God gives eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)**

## **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION**

*To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. <sup>7</sup> And so people become enemies of God when they are controlled by their human nature; for they do not obey God's law, and in fact they cannot obey it. <sup>8</sup> Those who obey their human nature cannot please God.*

**Romans 8:6-8 (TEV)**

**The believer is to be controlled by none except God alone in salvation**

**Even the believer cannot make a true non-manipulated decision in the sin state**