

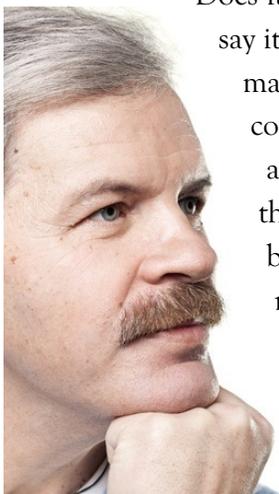
PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

May 1, 2016

Does It Matter What We Believe?

by Frank Himmel



Does it matter what we believe? Many say it does not, at least in spiritual matters. Different beliefs, even contradictory ones, are somehow all regarded as equally valid. In the final analysis, what one believes has little effect on his relationship with God.

Is this what the Bible says?
Certainly not! Just about every letter in the New Testament warns against

error and urges us to adhere to the truth. Here are just a few samples.

📖 Romans 16:17: "Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them."

📖 1 Corinthians 1:10: "Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment."

📖 2 Corinthians 11:3-4: "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."

📖 Galatians 1:8: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

📖 Ephesians 4:14: "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by craftiness in deceitful scheming."

📖 Philippians 1:9-10: "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ."

📖 Colossians 2:8: "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."

📖 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22: "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good, abstain from every form of evil." ▶

2 Thessalonians 2:15: “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.”

1 Timothy 4:1: “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”

2 Timothy 4:2-4: “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

Titus 1:10-11: “For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.”

Hebrews 13:9a: “Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings.”

James 1:16: “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”

1 Peter 5:12: “Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

2 Peter 2:1: “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

1 John 4:1: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

2 John 9: “Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”

3 John 4: “I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”

Jude 3-4: “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

It does matter what we believe!



Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Bruce Williams	Brian Wilson	Josh Baucom
SONG LEADER	Carlos Garcia	Greg Winget	Albert Harrison
OPENING PRAYER	Clifton Lefort	Kerry Gray	
LORD'S SUPPER			
BREAD	Jason Chandler	Jason Chandler	
CUP	J B Williams	J B Williams	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Adam Gibson		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	John Baucom
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella	Chris Brooks	Lee Davenport