

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Why We Need to Be Saved—The Commands

Selected Scriptures

Keywords: Believe, faith, repentance, Mark 1:15

PowerPoint Presentation included: Two Commands.pptx

SermonAudio Blurb: To be a person who is in a right relationship toward his or her Creator is the most critical issue anyone faces. The common way this is described is whether a person is “saved” or not. Unfortunately this concept, though a central theme of the bible, is misunderstood by many, even within the church. What does it mean? What does it entail? Why is it so important? And how does one know if they are saved? These are the sort of questions this small series will seek to explain. We have seen that the problem is sin and that the solution is in and through Jesus Christ. Now, in this third sermon we will see the commands: repent and believe the gospel.

I. Introduction.

- A. This series is to clarify what makes a person an actual Christian.
- B. We broke this series into four sermons, dealing with four parts to the idea of being saved.
 - 1. First, the problem.
 - 2. Second, the solution.
 - 3. Third, the commands.
 - 4. Four, the benefits.
- C. Today we consider the commands.
 - 1. In other words, what are we commanded to do in light of the problem and the solution?
 - 2. There are two commands given to anyone who hears the problem and solution. These two commands are really two sides of the same coin and by understanding them you discover what is the entrance way to salvation.
- D. The bible gives us two commands in light of what God says about us and our universal guilt before Him and God’s solution through Jesus Christ—repent and believe. Today I intend to show you what these terms mean and what they promise to the one who does them.

II. We believe the problem and solution.

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- A. The bible makes this simple statement from a prophet who was preparing the nation of Israel to see their Savior. *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”* (Mark 1:15)
- B. The command to repent.
 - 1. Let us first consider for a moment what has happened to a man or woman who suddenly says that they believe the Christian gospel?
 - a. We would say that something has changed.
 - b. For some this is rather abrupt while for others it is a process where slowly things change until, at some point, they realize they actually believe what the bible says about themselves and about Jesus
 - 2. What happened? We can say they believe or that they are now believers. But why? And the answer is that they had a change of mind.
 - a. At one point they heard the Christian message, the gospel but it meant nothing or it was a point of passing interest.
 - b. But then there was a critical change where the gospel was precious to them. They truly believed it.
 - 3. This is what is meant by “repent.”
 - a. The term literally means a change of mind.
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 gives the sense of what is meant.
 - (1) Note the report that Paul heard from others after he was there in the city preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Turned to God. Turned from idols.
 - (b) For what purpose? Was this a vague turning? An emotional, passing repentance? No, look down at it and find the purpose . . . “to serve.”
 - (c) However, note that it was not a vague sort of turning either. There was a clear indication of what changed in their minds.
 - i) True God.

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ii) Living God

iii) The return of Jesus Christ.

iv) The resurrection, and therefore the death, of Jesus Christ.

v) The reality that it is in Jesus where you find salvation from God's judgment.

4. So this is the idea of repenting. A radical change of mind about yourself and God.

5. But why did you repent? You believed the good news.

C. The command to believe.

1. Hebrews 11:1-2, 6.

a. Repentance and belief are so tightly connected that it is hard to separate them. Truly they are simply two sides of the same coin. Belief is the verb of the word "faith." To say you believe means that there is some content upon which you have faith.

b. To believe is to be assured, which speaks of having a foundation upon which you stand. It is not a wish or a wispy hope, it is a settled conviction that it is true.

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- c. Notice in vs 6 that to not have faith means you cannot and will not be accepted by God. You come to Him but you do not believe what He has said and yet you expect Him to accept you. It is a lie you tell yourself.
 2. Ask yourself right now if you believe you are a Christian. And if so, why?
 3. We all believe something. But that is not saving faith. There are many who believe the right things about themselves and about Jesus Christ but that is not saving faith. So let me work out with you the three aspects that are necessary to have saving faith.
 - a. Know the right facts. Agree to those facts. Trust in the God who declared these to be the facts.
 - b. The reality is that often one of these points is missing and as a result the person is never saved. But what makes this even more sad is that they are often thinking they are saved.
 4. First, you must know the gospel.

5. Second, you agree to these facts

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6. You must trust in the God who declared these to be the facts.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Many a person raised in the church, members of a church, who claim to be a Christian, who know the facts of the gospel, agree with those facts, but have no trust in the good news of Jesus Christ.
- B. For some, they hear the gospel and suddenly they find that they believe. It is like a light bulb clicking on in a dark room.
- C. For many it is more like a dimmer switch that grows ever brighter. And finally there is a point where the person realizes that something is different and upon thought they see that what is different is that they are now resting and trusting in the gospel. It is their life and hope.
- D. This is what you must understand. If you are a Christian you must give the gospel as it is described in the bible. All of it. You must explain what the bible says in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
- E. You must speak this until they either reject it or they accept it. From that point your work is done.
- F. The only thing left is to call them to trust in it. To trust that Jesus is truly the only way to be saved—through His life, death and resurrection.
- G. And this is what I say to you here. Do you believe this? Is this your hope and your only hope?
- H. Next week we will see the blessings that come from being saved.

Benediction

May our God cause you all to not stumble and to make you stand one day in His presence filled with joy. May God's Spirit hold you in His mighty hand until that day of redemption. And may you find your hope, joy and life in His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord. To Him be the glory and majesty and dominion for all time. Amen