

WHAT TO DO WITH JESUS

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Part 3 - Looking Unto Jesus

by Dr. John Polis

INTRODUCTION:

This is the last in the series, we have learned to Look Unto Jesus as the Object and Example of our Faith. If you have not heard these messages and you are part of FCI, you will be lagging behind the rest of us, so I recommend you listen on the App asap as these messages were critical to your walk with Him. Today we will see Jesus as the Developer of Our Faith.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Subject of Faith is broad in scripture, the Bible itself is called the Word of Faith, **ROMANS 10:8**. We often think of "faith" as just trusting God, it is much more than that. Let's look at the Four Aspects of Faith that Jesus "is the originator and completer" of in our Christian Life. This is what He has begun and plans to bring two completion in your life.

ROMANS 10:8

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

NUMBER 1. Faith as the Sum Total of our belief. The “Christian Faith.”

1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-10

For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

A. The River is made up of “streams” or truth.

PSALMS 46:4-6

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. ⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

B. The promise of Restoration.

ACTS 3:19-21

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

- Evangelical Doctrine
- Pentecostal Doctrine
- Charismatic Doctrine
- Kingdom Doctrine

C. The Present Truth.(The RFI Tract)

2 PETER 1:12

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

NUMBER 2. Faith as a Life Principle

ROMANS 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

ROMANS 10:9-10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

COLOSSIANS 2:6

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

1 JOHN 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

NUMBER 3. Faith as the Beliefs we Defend.

JUDE 1:3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-4

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

A. Modern Heresy's

- Universalism
- Social Gospel
- Red Letter Christianity
- All these fall under Progressive Christianity

B. **There is a lowered view of the Bible:** One of the main differences between Progressive Christianity and Historic Christianity is its view of the Bible. Historically, Christians have viewed the Bible as the Word of God and

authoritative for our lives. Progressive Christianity generally abandons these terms, emphasizing personal belief over biblical mandate.

Comments you might hear:

- *The Bible is a human book...*
- *I disagree with the Apostle Paul on that issue...*
- *The Bible condones immorality, so we are obligated to reject what it says in certain places...*
- *The Bible "contains" the word of God...*

C. **Feelings are emphasized over facts:** In Progressive churches, personal experiences, feelings, and opinions tend to be valued above objective truth. As the Bible ceases to be viewed as God's definitive word, what a person *feels to be true* becomes the ultimate authority for faith and practice.

Comments you might hear:

- *That Bible verse doesn't resonate with me....*
- *I thought homosexuality was a sin until I met and befriended some gay people....*
- *I just can't believe Jesus would send good people to hell....*

D. **Essential Christian doctrines are open for re-interpretation:** Progressive author John Pavlovitz wrote, "There are no sacred cows [in Progressive Christianity]... Tradition, dogma, and doctrine are all fair game, because all pass through the hands of flawed humanity." Progressive Christians are often open to re-defining and re-interpreting the Bible on hot-button moral issues like homosexuality and abortion, and also cardinal doctrines such as the virgin conception and the bodily resurrection of Jesus. The only sacred cow is "no sacred cows."

Comments you might hear:

- *The resurrection of Jesus doesn't have to be factual to speak truth....*
- *The church's historic position on sexuality is archaic and needs to be updated within a modern framework...*
- *The idea of a literal hell is offensive to non-Christians and needs to be re-interpreted....*

E. **Historic terms are re-defined:** There are some Progressive Christians who say they affirm doctrines like biblical inspiration, inerrancy, and authority, but they have to do linguistic gymnastics to make those words mean what *they want*

them to mean. I remember asking a Pastor, "Do you believe the Bible is divinely inspired?" He answered confidently, "Yes, of course!" However, I mistakenly assumed that when using the word "inspired," we both meant the same thing. He clarified months later what he meant—that the Bible is inspired *in the same way and on the same level* as many other Christian books, songs, and sermons. This, of course, is not how Christians have historically understood the doctrine of divine inspiration.

Another word that tends to get a Progressive make-over is the word "love." When plucked out of its biblical context, it becomes a catch-all term for everything non-confrontative, pleasant, and affirming.

Comments you might hear:

- *God wouldn't punish sinners—He is love....*
- *Sure, the Bible is authoritative—but we've misunderstood it for the first 2,000 years of church history...*
- *It's not our job to talk to anyone about sin—it's our job to just love them....*

F. The heart of the gospel message shifts from sin and redemption to social

justice: There is no doubt that the Bible commands us to take care of the unfortunate and defend those who are oppressed. This is a very real and profoundly important part of what it means to live out our Christian faith. However, the *core message* of Christianity—the gospel—is that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and resurrected, and thereby reconciled us to God. *This* is the message that will *truly* bring freedom to the oppressed.

Many Progressive Christians today find the concept of God willing His Son to die on the cross to be embarrassing or even appalling. Sometimes referred to as "cosmic child abuse," the idea of blood atonement is de-emphasized or denied altogether, with social justice and good works enthroned in its place.

Comments you might hear:

- *Sin doesn't separate us from God—we are made in His image and He called us good....*
- *God didn't actually require a sacrifice for our sins—the first Christians picked up on the pagan practice of animal sacrifice and told the Jesus story in similar terms....*
- *We don't really need to preach the gospel—we just need to show love by bringing justice to the oppressed and provision to the needy...*

CONCLUSION:

Identifying the signs is not always obvious—sometimes they are subtle and mixed with a lot of truth. Progressive Christianity can be persuasive and enticing, but carried out to its logical end, it is an assault on the foundational framework of Christianity, leaving it disarmed of its saving power.

We shouldn't be surprised to find some of these ideas infiltrating our churches. Jesus warned us, "Watch out for false prophets" who "come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves" (Matthew 7:15). So if you spot any of these 5 danger signs in your place of worship, it might be time to pray about finding fellowship in a more biblically faithful church community.

NUMBER 4. Faith as the Force that Takes.

A. "Lambano" Take it and you will have it!

MARK 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.

MARK 5:25-32

Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." ²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of the affliction. ³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" ³¹ But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " ³² And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus began these four aspects of our faith, and He will complete them as we follow Him closely, learning His Word and Obeying Holy Spirit.