

An open book with a quill pen resting on it, illuminated by a warm light. The pages are yellowed with age, and the quill is dark and pointed. The background is dark and textured.

John 8:24-47

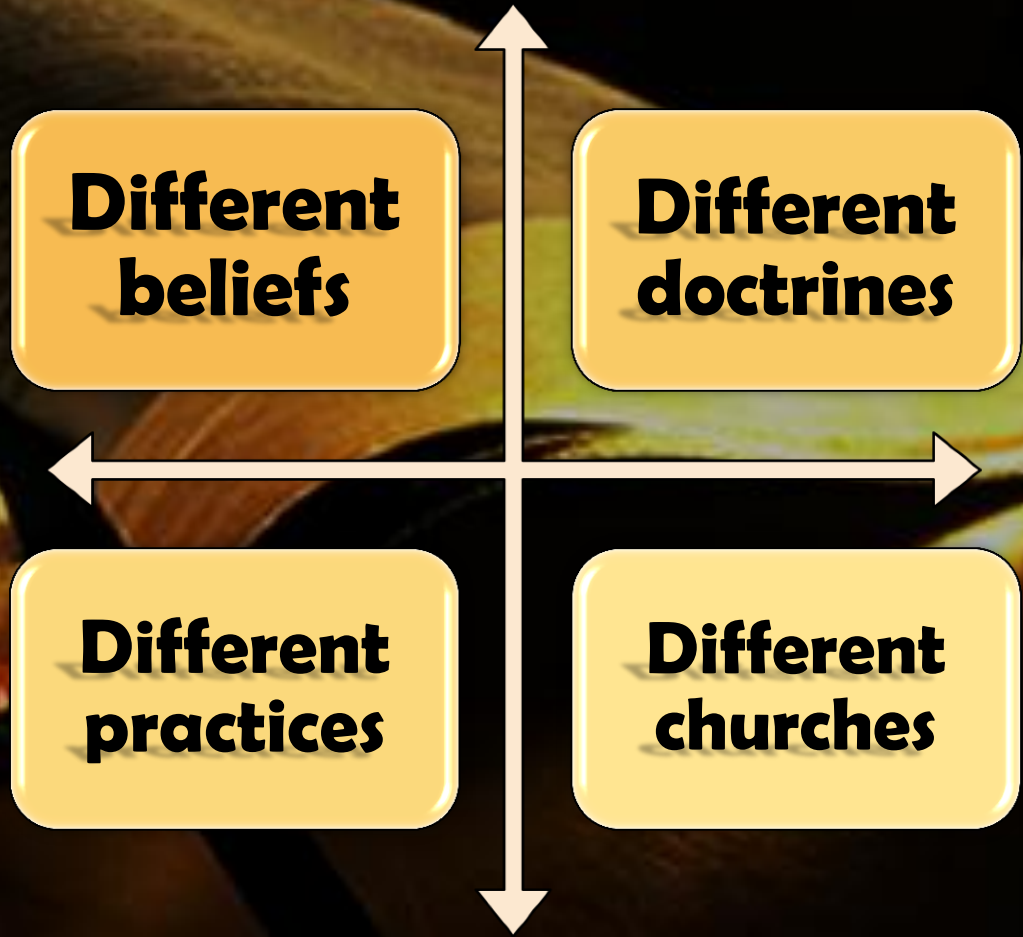
Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

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WHAT WE BELIEVE?

**The
Religious
World Is
Divided**



IT DOES MATTER! — 1 COR. 1:10



Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

Truth is not contingent upon one's belief in it, altered by one's rejection of it, or nullified if no one accepts it

TRUTH IS TRUTH

(John 17:17; Psalm 19:7-9; 119:9,11,104)



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"God said it - that settles it - I need to believe it!"

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

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truth – is NOT the truth –

TRUTH IS NARROW! (Mat 7:13,14)

TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE! – (Ps 119:151;152)

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(John 17:17; Psalm 19:7-9; 119:9,11,104)

"God said it - that settles it - I need to believe it!"

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

John 8:21-47 (NKJV)

²¹ Then Jesus said to them again, "**I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come.**" ²² So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?" ²³ And He said to them, "**You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.**" ²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

John 8:21-47 (NKJV)

²⁵ Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "**Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning.** ²⁶ I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but **He who sent Me is true;** and I speak to the world those things which I heard **from Him.**" ²⁷ They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. ²⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "**When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* I do nothing of Myself;**

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

John 8:21-47 (NKJV)

but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please

Him." ³⁰ As He spoke these words, many believed in

Him. ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed

Him, "**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.** ³² **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

John 8:21-47 (NKJV)

³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* you say, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.** ³⁵ **And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever.** ³⁶ **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

John 8:21-47 (NKJV)

³⁷ "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because **My word** has no place in you. ³⁸ I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." ³⁹ They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "**If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.** ⁴⁰ But now you seek to kill Me, **a Man who has told you the truth** which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

John 8:21-47 (NKJV)

⁴¹ **You do the deeds of your father.**" Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father--God." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.**" ⁴³ **Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.** ⁴⁴ **You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.**

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

John 8:21-47 (NKJV)

He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

Barrier To The Gospel

THE TRUE GOSPEL

**Can't Get
Through**

**It
Does
Not
Make
Any
Differ-
ence**

- ♦ No need to study -
- ♦ Issues are trivial -
- ♦ Feel comfortable -
- ♦ Have a church so -

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WHAT WE BELIEVE?

Barrier To The Gospel

THE TRUE GOSPEL

**Can't Get
Through**

**It
Does
Not
Make
Any
Difference**

- ◆ Good moral people = Christians.
- ◆ “Sincerity is all that matters.”
- ◆ “Just believe in the Lord.”
- ◆ “One church as good as any.”

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

Barrier To The Gospel

THE TRUE GOSPEL

**Can't Get
Through**

It
Does
Not
Make
Any
Difference

♦ Good moral
people =

**LIES of
Satan!!!**

♦ "One church as
good as any."

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

**“It Doesn’t Matter” - “Sincerity Is Enough”
DOESN’T WORK IN THE MATERIAL WORLD**

- ♦ **Business** – (investments, hiring, purchasing)
- ♦ **Nature** – (spiders, snakes, sharks, lions, etc)
- ♦ **Directions** – (Heading to Texas: You can travel I 40 east from Little Rock until you run out of road and never get to Texas)
- ♦ **Health** – (Drink poison – still poison no matter how strongly one believes otherwise! – etc.)
- ♦ **Technology** – (computers / cell phones . . .)

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

“If One MUST Believe ANYTHING”
THEN IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

◆ **God** - (Heb 11:6)

◆ **Christ** - (John 8:21, 24)

◆ **Truth** - (John 8:32; Gal.
1:6-9; 2 Thes 2:10-12)

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

“The Objective Standard”

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Romans 3:4
(NKJV)

4 . . . let God
be true but
every man a
liar. As it is
written: . . .

- ♦ **What is written** - (2 Cor. 4:13)
- ♦ **Oracles of God** - (1 Pet. 4:11)
- ♦ **Commandments** - (1 Cor. 14:37)
- ♦ **Word of God** - (1 Thess. 2:13)
- ♦ **Inspired Scriptures** - (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- ♦ **Words chosen by the Holy Spirit** -
(1 Cor. 2:9-13)

Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

“The Objective Standard”

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Adam & Eve
Genesis 3

Noah & World
Genesis 6,7

Nadab & Abihu
Lev 10:1-3

Uzzah
2 Sam. 6:6

Young Prophet
1 Kings 13

Paul / Saul
1 Tim 1:13

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“The Objective Standard”

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**2 Timothy 1:13
(NKJV)**

**¹³ Hold fast the
pattern of sound
words which you
have heard from me,
in faith and love
which are in Christ
Jesus.**

- ◆ **According to the pattern**
- (Heb. 8:5)
- ◆ **In the name of the Lord**
- (Col. 3:17)
- ◆ **Within the doctrine of
Christ** - (2 John 9)
- ◆ **By the rule** - (Phil. 3:16)

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WHAT WE BELIEVE?

“The Objective Standard”

OUR BELIEF & PRACTICE AFFECTS OUR:

2 Corinthians 6:14
(NKJV)

14 . . . For what
fellowship has
righteousness with
lawlessness? And
what communion has
light with darkness?

- ♦ **Fellowship with God -**
(1 John 1:6)
- ♦ **Fellowship with one
another -** (1 John 1:7)
- ♦ **Our eternal destiny -**
(John 8:32; 2 Thes 2:10-12;
Mat. 7:21-23)

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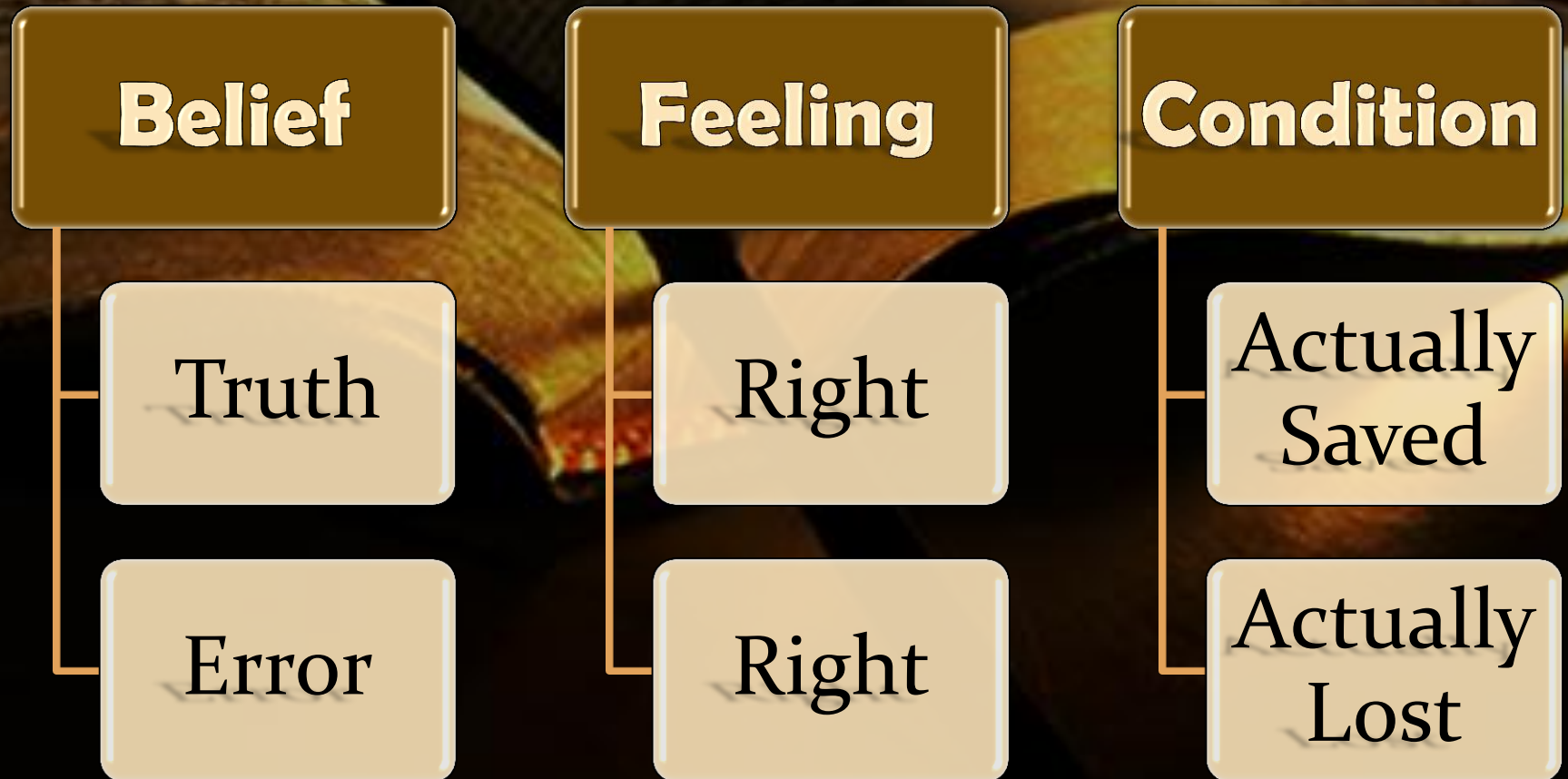
TRUTH: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL

TEXT	PRACTICE	RESULT	TEXT	PRACTICE	RESULT
John 8:32	"Know the truth"	"Set free"	2 Thess. 2:9-12	"Do not love truth"	"Perish"
1 Peter 1:22	"Obey The Truth"	"Purify Soul"	2 John 9	"Abide not in doctrine"	"Doesn't have God"
John 4:24	"Spirit & Truth"	"True worship"	Matthew 15:9	"Doctrines of men"	"Vain worship"
1 Timothy 4:16	"Watch life & doctrine"	"Save self and hearers"	Galatians 1:8-9	"Preach different gospel"	"Accursed"

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WHAT WE BELIEVE?

TRUTH: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL



Does It Really Matter

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

**If It Doesn't Make
Any Difference**

- ✦ **Doesn't matter whether one believes or not.**
- ✦ **Doesn't make any difference whether one believes the Bible.**
- ✦ **What Bible says is not important!**
- ✦ **What God says is not important!**

**If It Does Make A
Difference**

- ✦ **I need to know the truth - (John 8:32).**
- ✦ **I need to study & examine what I am taught (Acts 17:11).**
- ✦ **I need to obey truth - (1 Pet. 1:22)**
- ✦ **I need to be careful in my practice - (Eph. 5:15)**



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An open book with a textured, brownish-gold cover is shown from a high angle. The pages are white and appear aged. The text is overlaid on the book, with the title at the top, a question in the middle, and a statement at the bottom. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

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Acts 17:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

Does It Really Matter **WHAT WE BELIEVE?**

Charts by Don McClain

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