


1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

- ✓ Defense (apologia) = apology (answer / defense)
 - ✓ Truth has a defense...to questions / to challenges
 - ✓ Need to know why we...
 - ✓ Need to prepare ourselves to answer the question: why?
- 

Why
We...?

- *Fundamental Studies*
- *Why Believe...*
- *Why we Practice...*
- *Why we Don't...*





Topics

- ✓ **Thursday:** *Why we believe it makes a difference what one believes*
- ✓ **Friday:** *Why we believe Jesus was raised from the dead*
- ✓ **Saturday:** *Why we believe there is just one church*
- ✓ **Sunday Class:** *Why we believe miracles have ceased*
- ✓ **Sunday AM:** *Why we believe hell is real and eternal*
- ✓ **Sunday PM:** *Why we do not believe once saved always saved*

Why We...?

We Believe It Makes A
Difference What One
Believes



A Popular Concept



- Faith alone - "Just believe in the Lord"
- "Sincerity is all that matters"
- Does not make a difference what one believes
- "Join the church of your choice"
- "One faith is as good as another"
- Good moral people = Christians

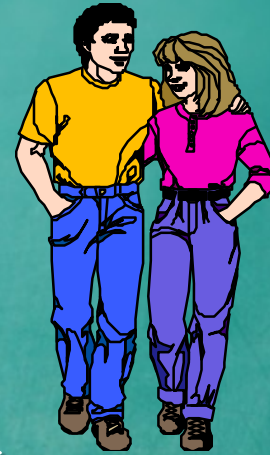


Greatest obstacle to Teaching others



The gospel
can't get
through

One of
The
Devil's
Most
Effective
Tools!



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



We Believe It Makes A Difference What One Believes

1. There is an objective standard



There
is
An
Objective
Standard

A. Objective – vs – subjective Standards

1. *Subjective – varies from person to person*
 - “I feel...”
 - “I think...”
 - “My family...”
 - “My preacher...”
 - “I have a book that says...”
2. *Objective – fixed standard (same for all)*

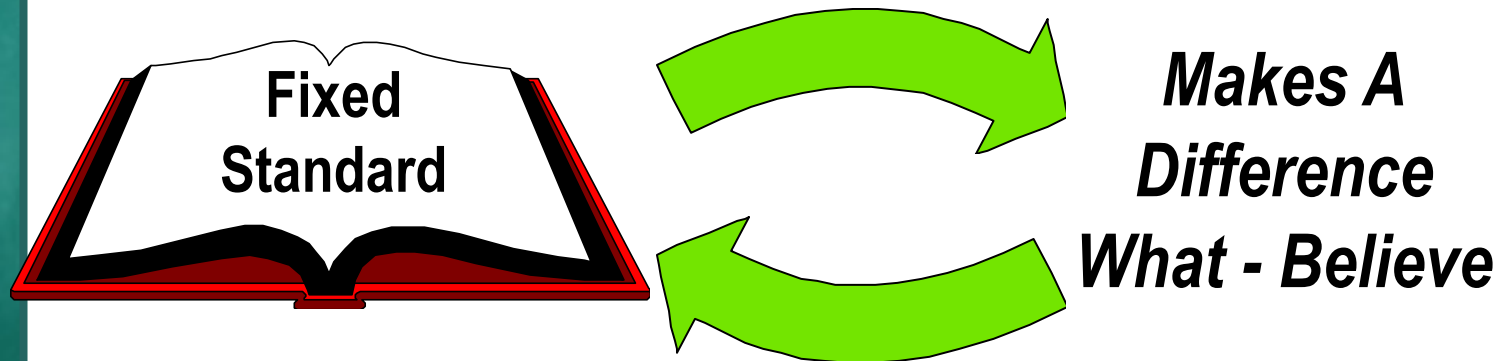


There
is
An
Objective
Standard

A. Objective – vs – subjective Standards

B. Word of God is the Objective Standard

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



Does It Make Any Difference How You Wire A House?

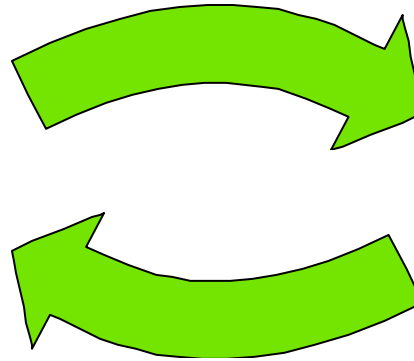
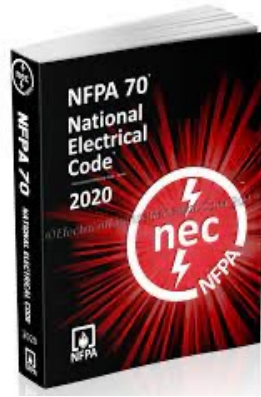
Subjective

- *“I feel like...I think...”*
- *“I know an electrician who says...”*
- *“My dad wired his house...”*
- *“My neighbor did his this way...”*



Does It Make Any Difference How You Wire A House?


Objective



**Makes A
Difference
How Wire**



We Believe It Makes A Difference What One Believes



- I. There is an Objective Standard
- II. There is one Faith



There
is
one
Faith

A. The Bible Speaks of “One Faith” not “Faiths”

Eph 4:4-6

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.



There
Is
One
Faith

A. The Bible Speaks of “One Faith” not “Faiths”

B. “One Faith” Means “Only One Faith”

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just as you were called in one hope
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5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6 one God and Father of all, who is
above all, and through all, and in
you all.

“One Spirit” - Many spirits?
- Only one Spirit?

“One Lord” - Many Lords?
- Only one Lord?

“One God” - Many gods?
- Only one God?

“One Faith” - Many faiths?
- Only one faith?

There
is
one
Faith

- A. The Bible Speaks of “One Faith” not “Faiths”
- B. “One Faith” Means “Only One Faith”
- C. No Such Thing As “My Faith”, “Your Faith” or “Different Faiths”



We Believe It Makes A Difference What One Believes

- I. There is an Objective Standard
- II. There is One Faith
- III. It is Possible to Believe a Lie & Be Lost



It is
Possible
To
Believe
a Lie &
Be Lost

A. Young Prophet Believed a Lie – Punished (1 Kings 13)



Believing A Lie

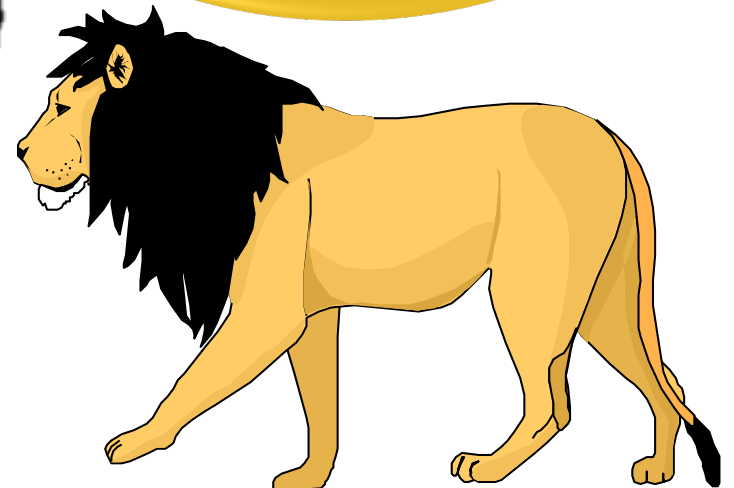
1 Kings 13

Truth:

Do not eat bread
Do not drink water
Do not return
by the same way

Lie:



“Bring him back to your
house, that he
may eat bread
and drink water.”



It is
Possible
To
Believe
a Lie &
Be Lost

A. Young Prophet Believed a Lie – Punished (1 Kings 13)

B. Those Who Believe a Lie – Perish (2 Thess. 2:10-12)

Lie	Truth
<p>Deceived (v.10) Not love truth (v. 10) Deluded (v. 11) Believe lie (v. 11) Not believe truth (v. 12) Pleasure in unright. (v. 12)</p> 	<p>Love truth (v. 10) Believe truth (v. 12)</p> 
<p>Perish (v. 10) Condemned (v. 12)</p>	<p>Saved (v. 10)</p>



We Believe It Makes A Difference What One Believes

- I. There is an Objective Standard
- II. There is One Faith
- III. It is Possible to Believe a Lie & Be Lost
- IV. One Can be Religious and be Wrong



One
Can be
Religious
and be
Wrong

A. Cain's Offering Was Not Accepted (Gen.4:3-5)

Gen 4:3-5

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.



Cain

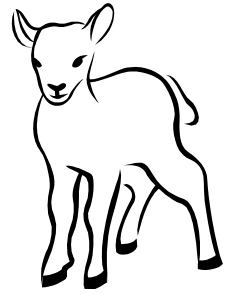
Offering:

“Fruit of ground”

**Lord
Did Not Respect**

Not: “By Faith”

Abel



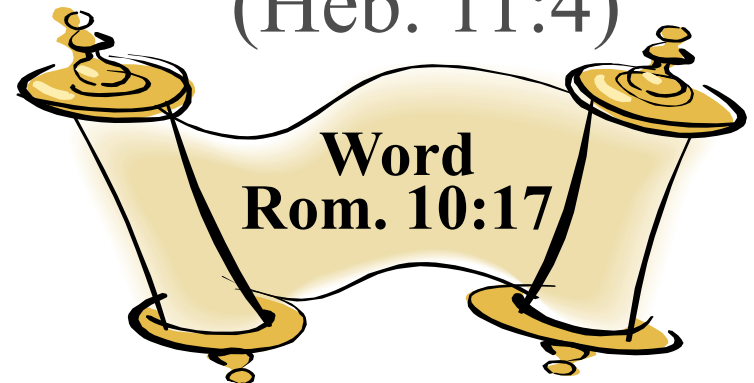
Offering:

“firstborn of his flock”

**Lord
Respected**

“By Faith”

(Heb. 11:4)



One
Can be
Religious
and be
Wrong

- A. Cain's Offering Was Not Accepted (Gen.4:3-5)
- B. Nadab and Abihu's Sacrifice Did Not Please God (Lev. 10:1-2)

Lev 10:1-2

1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

“...offered unauthorized fire...” (NIV)



One
Can be
Religious
and be
Wrong

- A. Cain's Offering Was Not Accepted (Gen.4:3-5)
- B. Nadab and Abihu's Sacrifice Did Not Please God (Lev. 10:1-2)
- C. Believers in Christ Can Be Lost (Matt. 7:21-23)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

We Believe It Makes A Difference What One Believes

- I. There is an Objective Standard
- II. There is One Faith
- III. It is Possible to Believe a Lie & Be Lost
- IV. One Can be Religious and be Wrong
- V. Absurd Consequences



Absurd

Consequences

- A. Direct Opposite Doctrines / Practices are Equal
- B. We Can Do Anything We Want in Religion
- C. Doesn't Matter *Whether* One Believes or Not
- D. Doesn't Make Any Difference Whether One Believes
The Bible
 - 1. *If so, what Bible says is unimportant!*
 - 2. *If so, what God says is unimportant!*



We Believe It Makes A Difference What One Believes

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How
Does
This
Apply
To
Me?

- I need to know the truth (John 8:32)
- I need to study & examine what I am taught (Acts 17:11)
- I need to prepare to tell others why (1 Pet. 3:15)



