

WHERE DOES YOUR FAITH COME FROM?

“Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else’s opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation.”

- Oscar Wilde

Think about this quotation for a moment. Does this describe anyone that you know? Does this describe you? Just how much of what you believe is from your own study and research and how much is merely from what you have heard or been told?

Apply this to your beliefs about God and Jesus Christ. How much of what you know is from actual personal study of the Bible and how much is from what your parents or the preacher tells you? In other words, how much of your faith is based upon what others say versus what you have studied yourself? Do not misunderstand; we all need teachers and preachers. In fact, God ordained these for the purpose of building up faith (Ephesians 4:11-16). Hopefully you are able to listen to teachers and preachers who speak the truth. But is that to be the end of it?

Are you really willing to stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10), where you will be judged on the teachings of Christ (John 12:47-48), and have your only knowledge of these teachings be what someone else told you they were? Bad idea! Whether intentional or not, false teachers will lead people away from God and to their doom (2 Peter 2:1-2). Paul recognized that sincerity was not sufficient; one must obey the truth (Acts 26:9-20). Are you willing to trust to your own sincerity in someone else’s beliefs about God and Christ? Again, bad idea!

Do not forget that the Gospel teaches us to “understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ep 5:17), and to “be diligent to present yourself approved to God” (2 Timothy 2:15) and to be able to “discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14). These are our responsibility as individuals. What are you going to do about it?

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