

Are You A “Believer”—Really?

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Clearly, some in the Bible thought they were believers when in reality they were not. A case in point is found in John 12:42 where we read, “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.” Now, were these chief rulers believers?” Obviously, they thought they were; the Bible even says they believed. But, could it really be said in truth that these chief rulers were believers? The Bible answer is “no.”

Why not? Their refusal to confess Christ disqualified them from salvation, as Romans 10:9-10 explains.

Another case in point comes from James 2:19, “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” James’ is teaching his readers the value of faith and accompanying works, which the devils obviously do not have. Are the devils believers? The Bible answer is again “no.”

Obviously, more is involved in one being classified as a “believer” than merely having knowledge of the Deity of Christ in his mind.

Let’s nail this subject down. In Acts 5:14 we learn that “believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.” In Acts 2:47 we learn that “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Therefore, “believers” are those whom the Lord has added to His church!

Study the chart below to see a fuller picture of what was expected of those to whom the gospel was presented. Check out what the Bible says they did.

- ✓ **HEARD.....Acts 2:37; 15:7; 18:8.**
- ✓ **BELIEVED.....Acts 15:9.**
- ✓ **REPENTED.....Acts 2:37-38.**
- ✓ **CONFESSED CHRIST.....Acts 8:37.**
- ✓ **WERE BAPTIZED.....Acts 2:38; 16:32-34.**
- ✓ **WERE ADDED.....Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 11:24.**

Conclusion, based on the foregoing biblical information we may rightly and correctly conclude that in order for a person to be a believer—a true believer by Bible definition—that person must be a member of the Lord’s church. And, what church is that? We read about it in Romans 16:16, “The churches of Christ salute you.” Are you a believer—really a believer?