

Lesson #3

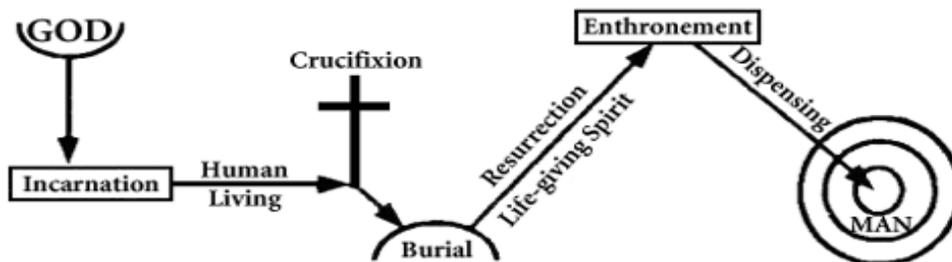
BELIEVING INTO CHRIST

... As many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name...

John 1:12

- I. What is to believe in Christ?**
 - a. To believe into Him and to be organically united with Him**
 - b. To receive Him as life**
- II. To be justified and saved**
 - a. Toward God – to believe with the heart**
 - b. Toward man – to confess with the mouth**

Diagram that Shows Process God Went through for Man to Be Organically United with Him by Believing *into* Him



Believing into Christ

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has drawn near. Repent and believe in the gospel.

- believe

Repentance is mainly in the mind; believing is mainly in the heart (Rom. 10:9). To believe in is to believe into the things in which we believe and to receive into us the things in which we believe. To believe in the gospel is mainly to believe in the Slave-Savior (Acts 16:31), and **to believe in Him is to believe into Him (John 3:15-16) and to receive Him into us (John 1:12) that we may be organically united with Him.** Such a faith in Christ (Gal. 3:22) is given to us by God through our hearing of the word of the truth of the gospel (Rom. 10:17; Eph. 1:13). This faith brings us into all the blessings of the gospel (Gal. 3:14). Hence, it is precious to us (2 Pet. 1:1). Such a precious faith must be preceded by repentance.

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction;

- faith

Or, faith in Jesus Christ. This faith refers to the faith of Jesus Christ in us, which has become the faith by which we believe in Him, as in v. 26; Gal. 2:16, 20; 3:22; Eph. 3:12 and Phil. 3:9.

Faith has an object, and it issues from its object. This object is Jesus, who is God incarnate. When man hears Him, knows Him, appreciates Him, and treasures Him, He causes faith to be generated in man, enabling man to believe in Him. Thus, He becomes the faith in man by which man believes in Him. Hence, this faith becomes

the faith in Him, and it is also the faith that belongs to Him.

In God's New Testament economy, God desires that man believe in Jesus, who is God incarnate. If man does not believe in Him, he commits the unique sin before God (John 16:9). However, if man believes in Him, he is righteous to the uttermost before God, and God reckons this faith as his righteousness. At the same time, **this faith brings its object, that is, this One who is God incarnate, into those** who believe in Him. He is God's righteousness, and God has given Him as righteousness to those who are indwelt by Him (Jer. 23:6). All this is out of, and depends on, the faith that is in Him and of Him (Heb. 12:2).

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

- received

To believe into is to receive.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

- believes

Believing into the Lord is not the same as believing Him (John 6:30). To believe Him is to believe that He is true and real, **but to believe into Him is to receive Him and be united with Him as one.** The former is to acknowledge a fact objectively; the latter is to receive a life subjectively.

Verses

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For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Colossians 2:6

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

Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Romans 10:10

For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation.

Colossians 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

- received

Christ is the allotted portion of the saints (Col. 1:12) for their enjoyment. To believe into Him is to receive Him. As the all-inclusive Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17), He enters into us and dwells in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22) to be everything to us.

Romans 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

- raised

Christ's being raised from the dead was invisible; hence, it requires our believing. Moreover, although Christ's death has redeemed us, it is His life in resurrection alone that can save us. Therefore, only when we believe in the great miracle that God performed in Him in raising Him from the dead can we be both redeemed and saved.

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- with

To believe with the heart is toward God; to confess with the mouth is toward man. To believe with the heart is to believe in Christ, who was glorified and raised by God from the dead; to confess with the mouth is to confess that Jesus, who was despised and rejected by man, is Lord. Both are conditions for our being justified and saved.

Romans 1:5 Through whom we have received grace and apostleship unto the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles on behalf of His name,

- obedience

God's unique commandment in this age, the age of grace, is that **man should believe into His Son, the Lord Jesus**. Whoever believes into Him will be saved; whoever does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not **believed into Him** (John 3:18). The Holy Spirit convicts the world of the sin of not believing into the Lord (John 16:8-9), of not obeying God's unique commandment. When we believe into the Lord, we have the **obedience** of faith, and the result is grace and peace (v. 7).

- faith

In the New Testament the complete gospel according to God's New Testament revelation is the content of the faith, with the two natures of Christ, who is both God and man, and the redemptive work accomplished through His death and resurrection as its center (see note 1 Tim. 1:11, par. 2). To obey this faith is to turn from all pagan religions and philosophies unto this faith, believing and receiving it.

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- faith

Faith in Christ brings us into Christ, making us one with Christ, in whom is the sonship. We must be identified with Christ through faith so that in Him we may be sons of God.

Philippians 1:29 Because to you it has been graciously granted on behalf of Christ not only to believe into Him but also to suffer on His behalf,

- into

This implies that the believer has an organic union with Christ through believing into Him. To believe into Christ is to have our being merged into His that we two may be one organically.

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Galatians 3:26

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