Last week we began the journey of defining “Real Christianity”…

Reason being, we just spent a couple of months talking about the Second Coming of Christ **and the sudden Rapture of His Church…**

Nobody wants to miss that!! Amen?!! The Tribulation follows…

And one of our people wrote in and asked the very valid question:

“How can I know that my friends and relatives are REALLY saved?

If there is one thing that Christians can be sure of, it’s that our **Heavenly “Dad”** wants us to know if we are right with him **OR NOT…**

**He tells us that REAL CHRISTIANITY consists of:**

* **John 3:3** – Being made brand new! A “born again” believer in Jesus… A totally new person…

Loving Him who set us free from slavery to sin/disobedience to God and His Word…

We de-throne self (Romans 8) and make Jesus the Lord of our life…

Serving Him with the gifts that His Holy Spirit gives all believers

(1 Cor 12) to bless others and advance the Kingdom of Heaven…

Filling us with the glorious **HOPE** of Heaven!

We serve Jesus to the maximum of our ability while we can, with what all we have, because as Jesus said… “the time is coming when we won’t be able to…” AMEN?!

* **Hebrews 12:14** – We choose to live at peace with others. Using our freedom of speech to lift others up.

Even if they do not hold the same political or religious views as we do…

* **2 Thessalonians 2:13** - We intentionally seek the Holy Spirit for His second work of amazing grace, to Sanctify us wholly.

Cleansing our hearts from it’s natural bent to sin/disobey God’s Word.

This is the way of holiness and close fellowship with the Lord that will leave no doubt in our minds that **we** or **our friends/relatives** are right with the Lord.

There is much more, but I have to save something for future messages!

To **help us** maintain our HOLY WALK, I gave you the 22 questions that John & Charles Wesley used **daily**,

with there accountability group at Oxford, to help them stay in step with the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:25) and live out a “Real Christian” faith.

These kinds of tools are important for us in light of the passage we looked at that book of the Bible that tells us men are to make the coffee…

**He-brews** 4:1-2.

God warns His children to **“be afraid”** of falling short of the rest that God has promised…” **Ending up in that terrible hot place!!!**

In Hebrews 11 – We are given examples of **ordinary people, who are just like you and me**. If you’re prideful, I meant to say (**extraordinary** people like you).

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Caleb… and others

What made these people extraordinary was their **Entirely Sanctified,** **Surrendered** **ALL** faith that TRUSTED and OBEYED God above the circumstances they faced in life.

Isn’t that the kind of **unconditional faith** that we want our **children**, **grand children** and **great grand children** to possess?

The kind of faith that trusts & obey’s God… even if it leads into the lion’s den or a fiery furnace?

So let’s just hit pause there… If I could interview those people closest to you (your **spouse**, your **children**, your **parents**, the **people you work with/go to school with**, the **people here at church**)…

and ask them about your relationship with God…what would they tell me?

Would they say that you possess that “never back down” kind of faith?

Now… we have some pretty nice folks here at New Beginnings who might say some very nice things about you!

But what if God allowed me to go to heaven and interview Him **about you?**

What would those two reports look like?

Would the folks closest to you give a more **glowing report** about your relationship with God, **than God Himself?**

That can happen if we’re more concerned about what others think about us, rather than what God knows…?

This is important part of the Spiritual examination that we talked about last week that God wants us to do regularly…

because remember in Hebrews 4:2…, God says that Christians “are just like the Israelites”… prone to wandering… not trusting & obeying God… missing the promised rest (Salvation)...

Based on the weather report in hell, we don’t want that!

For the benefit of those who weren’t hear last week…

God (thru the account of the Rich Young Ruler) revealed to us that it is possible for:

* Someone to know about God.
* Even obey God’s Word partially **to a point of their own choosing**

**(Bible ala-carte’).**

* Lack an **Entirely Sanctified,** **surrendered** **love relationship** with Jesus…

which causes them to “back down” or “shrink back” from obeying the Holy Spirit and God’s Word…

* Causing them not to be a follower of Jesus… even though they claim to be…

**There is no value in that kind of living! AMEN?!**

We want CERTAINTY!! For ourselves and our loved ones!! **Not because we’ve:**

* Behaved ourselves and been “good boys & girls”… or
* Because knew something about the Bible…,
* but because our love for the Author and His Word is visible in us!

So let’s evaluate our walk with Christ **regularly** and stay on the **narrow path…** **the upward climb… not a downward decent…**

1. **Respect God**

**Hebrews 4:3 - For only we who believe can enter his rest. (believers who combine faith with obedience)**

**As for the others, God said, "In my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest,'" even though this rest has been ready since he made the world.**

**God’s contract at the front door of the promised land was… “you totally trust Me and obey me… and you’ll enter the land…”**

God has demonstrated in numerous ways throughout history that **He is Sovereign**. **All powerful**, **all knowing**, and **always present**…

He makes the rules and He also enforces those rules, because He is not only loving and full of grace, but He is **Holy & just**.

**Deuteronomy 1:36 God clearly reveals His standard… wholehearted trust & obedience.**

**Notice that in V41-42 says, that when God told the Israelites that only Joshua & Caleb would enter, the children of God suddenly grabbed their weapons and said; “gee whiz God, we get it… we’ll go take the land now…**

But did God allow them? **No!**

Why? **Because God honors His contracts!**

**Even when God told them no, they still would not obey… and were severely beaten by the enemy… V45**

**Here are 5 myths that many believe about God that might make His saying “no” to those disobedient Israelites trying to enter the Promised Land… seem unthinkable to us today:**

**Myth #1** – God is love, He will not judge people. **2 Thess 1:8-9**

**Myth #2** – God may have judged people **then**, in the O.T. but He wouldn’t now. **Malachi 3:6**

This myth believes that God is somehow “evolving”… He may have had anger issues when He was younger, but He’s grown in grace since then… **Not!!**

**Hebrews 13:8** - He is the same yesterday, today & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This is why it is critical that the believers faith be found wholehearted and genuine… Entirely Sanctified & Surrendered!! So that we will enter the rest that has been promised from the beginning.

**Myth #3** – Hell = Annihilation **(it’s the basic doctrine of most cults)…**

The belief that God would not send people to a place where they experience pain & torment forever. He may zap them like a bug, but he will not send them to hell.

**Revelation 20:10**

**Remember: God doesn’t send anyone to hell. In choosing not to Love & respect God and live by the terms of His contract… they ignorantly choose hell over the promise rest of heaven.**

**Myth #4** – God will probably give people a second chance after we die.

When people get to hell and see how bad it is… they will say they’re sorry and repent… **Luke 16:26 & Hebrews 9:27**

**Myth #5** – Hell won’t be that bad… all my friends will be there… we’ll have a big party!

Jesus describes it this way **- Matthew 13:49-51 No party there!**

If someone wants to shut God out or control/limit God’s access in their life (by being a Sunday morning, 1 hour a week kind of Christian)…

They’re choosing to shut themselves out from God and **all of His AWESOME benefits, for ALL eternity.**

**Spurgeon wrote:** “It is shocking to think that a change in the weather has more of an effect on some peoples lives than does the dread alternative to heaven.”

**Please stand – I want to give you an invitation today…**

If you’ve never come to the place where you’ve fully/entirely/wholeheartedly given your life to serving Jesus by faith, **then today can be the best day of your life!**

Or if you’re one of those folks **(like I was)** who had convinced themselves that God wouldn’t keep them out of heaven **(even if His Word said differently)…**

Whose heart had not been **transformed**, **cleansed**, or **ENTIRELY SANCTIFIED** by the HOLY SPIRIT of God… then today can be a GREAT day for you as well!!

I invite you now to come to an altar and find **Real hope**, **REAL JOY** and **REAL PEACE** and **REAL CERTAINTY** as a **REAL CHILD** of the kingdom…

A child that yields to God and lives to serve Him above all others…

**Come as we sing…**

You are in a safe place with people JUST LIKE YOU…

* who either need to make this decision to trust & obey Jesus
* Or they have made this decision and are praying for you right now…