

What Does it Mean to Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?

By Allen Webster (continued from last week)

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO ACTS 16:32

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO OTHER "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" PASSAGES

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO OTHER PASSAGES ON FAITH.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus" is consistent with Jesus' teaching that believing in the Son is the key to having eternal life (John 3:36; 8:24; 20:30–31). Paul doubtless told the jailer that whoever believes in Jesus should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

It is important to use the term "believe" as the Holy Spirit did. What does it mean to believe? In Scripture, faith has these characteristics:

Faith includes the intellect. Sinners must believe **in** Jesus. Believe what? That He is "the Lord Jesus Christ," indicating His deity, humanity, and Messiahship.

- ◇ Faith is only as good as its object.
- ◇ A pagan believes an idol will save him.
- ◇ A moralist believes his goodness can save him.
- ◇ A humanist believes he can save himself.
- ◇ A Christian believes Jesus can save him.

Idolatry, goodness, and humanism have no power to save (Isaiah 45:20; Jeremiah 10:23; Romans 3:10), for the One who will judge accepts only those rescued by Jesus' blood (John 14:6).

Faith includes the emotions (conscience). We must believe **on** Jesus. Faith is not merely believing facts. It is trusting Christ to rescue from sin's dominion (Romans 6:14; Hebrews 7:25) and relying upon Him to remove sin's guilt (Romans 8:33).

Faith includes the will. Faith is consummated by an obedient response (Romans 16:26). It involves a decision. Believers receive the right to become sons of God (John 1:12).

A patient relies on a physician, the accused on an advocate, and a player on a coach. A patient that fails to take medicine the physician prescribed, the accused who disregards the counselor's advice, and a player who runs a different play than his coach called—all show a lack of faith by disobedience.

The jailer's faith led to actions. He

- ◇ brought his household to hear (16:32),
- ◇ washed stripes (16:33),
- ◇ was baptized (16:33),
- ◇ and served food (16:34).

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Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Barbara Stevens' tests have shown her heart is not the problem, but they haven't determined the cause for her discomfort.
- ◆ Bill Cockrum is really suffering from back pain.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Deloris Larson, Nichole's aunt. She died Friday. Her funeral will be tomorrow at Roller Funeral Home, Mtn. Home. Visitation is at 10 with service at 11.
- ◆ Brandy Pace will have major surgery Wednesday to remove a large mass from her abdomen.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Randy Johnson, Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Dale Strong, Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Harvey.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



Happy
250th
America!

Many Americans have
lost sight of the truth
that
RIGHTEOUSNESS is
the one indispensable
ingredient to **LIBERTY**.

EZRA TAFT BENSON

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
7-3	Ronnie Hambelton (80)	7-1	Larry and Dorlene Butler
7-8	Emma McGinnis	7-4	David and Barbara Stevens (57)
7-9	Bryce Hambelton	7-10	Dale and Brenda Strong (61)
7-13	Oakley Goodman (5)	7-15	Titus and Jessica Smith
7-23	Diana Moyers-Siebels	Birthdays	
7-27	Mary Piepergerdes	7-30	Esther Strong
7-28	Myles Smith (5)		

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ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO OTHER CASES OF CONVERSION.

If one takes only Saul's case (Acts 22:16), then he might teach salvation by baptism alone. If one takes only Pentecost (Acts 2:38), then he might teach only repentance and baptism. If one takes the jailer alone, then he might say salvation is by faith only.

Some make this mistake by saying things like, the jailer "did not have to move his body an inch to be converted." Acts 16:31 teaches salvation by faith, but it does not teach salvation by faith only. There is no "only" in the verse. James declared "faith only" does not save (James 2:17–20, 24).

There is consistency in the conversion cases in Acts. "Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8) is a simple summary. Compare the other conversions in chapters 2, 8, 9, 10, 16, and 19.

The jailer is a good example of what to do upon learning the gospel. When Paul finished their study, the jailer obeyed the same hour of the night. He did not argue, make excuses, or procrastinate.

Have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ? If you have not been baptized yet, or if you did so for the wrong reasons, "why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins."

Thanks to all those who participated in the picnic last night.

July Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

7-5 David Stevens
7-12 John Abraham
7-19 Mark Lane
7-26 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

D. E. Pleasant
Tinker Langston
Don Reynolds
Paul Wade

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Kay Young and Mary Lou Snelson

The Family News

July 5, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Two Cousins***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us