

“Believe The Works”
John 10:32-42

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Our Bibles Once Again:
 - To The Gospel Of John - Where:
 - When We Were Last In Chapter 10:
 - We Were With Jesus In The Temple:
 - In The Winter:
 - During The Time Of The Feast Of Dedication - Or:
 - Hanukkah - As We Know It Today!
 - And - As Jesus Was:
 - Walking Along Solomon's Porch:
 - Which Provided Some Shelter From:
 - The Cold - A Gang Of Jewish Leaders:
 - Surrounded Him - And Demanded From Him - In 10:24:
 - “If Thou Be The Christ, Tell Us Plainly!”
2. And - This Is Exactly:
 - What Jesus Proceeded To Do!
 - Even Though Jesus:
 - Did Not Answer Their Question:
 - Directly - He Answered It:
 - Plainly Enough!
 - That He Was & Is:
 - The Christ:
 - The Son Of The Living God!
 - And - Because Of Jesus' Answer:
 - We Found The Jews' Response:
 - In 10:31 - “Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him!”
 - As A Blood-Thirsty Mob:
 - Seeking To Act Upon Their Long-Held Desire:
 - To Kill Jesus!
3. But - What Happens Next:
 - From 10:32 - To The End Of The Chapter:
 - Provides Even More Proof:
 - That Jesus Was & Is The Christ!
 - Because - Even As The Jews:
 - Were Standing Around Jesus:
 - With Stones & Rocks In Their Hands:
 - At The Ready!
 - Jesus Does Not Wince!
 - Jesus Does Not Flinch!
 - Instead - Once Again:
 - Jesus Calmly But Firmly Confronts Them:
 - And Answers Them!
 - How?
- 10:32-42 - “Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? / The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. / Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? / If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; / Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? / If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. / But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. / Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand, / And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. / And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. / And many believed on him there!”
4. Now - Even Before Jesus Asked The Jews:
 - Why They Wanted To Stone & Kill Him:

- He Already Knew!
- And So - He Wanted To Bring Out:
 - Their Prime Accusation:
 - Against Him - So That They Might Hear It:
 - Come Out Of Their Own Mouths!
 - And What Was Their Accusation:
 - Against Jesus?
 - 10:33 - “The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God!”
- The Accusation & Charge Against Jesus:
 - Was Blasphemy!
 - A Slander Against The Holy Nature Of God!
 - Because - They Believed:
 - There Could Be No Other God!
 - And No Man Could Be That God!
 - This Goes All The Way Back To:
 - The Great Shema Of Deuteronomy 6:4-5:
 - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: / And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might!”

5. And - To Them - Jesus Was:

- Making Himself God!
 - Especially When He Made The Claim Back In 10:30 - That:
 - “I And My Father Are One!”
- To This Charge:
 - Jesus Challenges The Jews:
 - To Consider His Works!
 - In 10:37-38 - Jesus Says - “If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. / But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works!”
 - “Believe The Works!”
 - Jesus Says - Because:
 - His Works Confirm:
 - His Words!
 - “Believe The Works!”
 - Jesus Says - Because:
 - His Conduct Is Proof:
 - Of His Claims!

6. And As We Look More Closely:

- At These Verses This Morning:
 - We Will See That:
 - We Too Can Put Our:
 - Faith In His Works - And Then:
 - Follow In His Ways!
- Because - As We First Find:
 - In 10:32 - Jesus Did All Of His Works:

1. ***With Courage!***

- Jesus Never Shrank From Doing:
 - The Will & Works Of His Father:
 - Even In The Face Of Impending Danger:
 - And Threats To His Life!
 - And This Is Why:
 - Even As “The Jews Took Up Stones Again To Stone Him” - Jesus:
 - Stood His Ground And “Answered Them: Many Good Works Have I Shewed You From My Father; For Which Of Those Works Do Ye Stone Me?”
 - In These Words:
 - We Discover What Jesus Himself Thought:
 - Of His Works - And:
 - What Motivated Him To Do Them:

- Even Though He Knew:
 - They Would Cause Angst & Anger Among The Jews!
 - Like When He Healed On The Sabbath!
- But - Jesus Did Not Apologize:
 - For His Works! Instead:
 - He Tells Us More About Them!
 - Even About:
- The Scope Of His Works!
 - They Were “Many!”
 - “Many Good Works I Have Shewed You!”
 - The Works Of Jesus:
 - Were So Many:
 - That They Could Not Easily:
 - Be Explained Away!
 - And - He Performed His Works:
 - With Great Courage:
 - Everywhere He Went!
 - But - Jesus Also Tells Us About:
- The Style Of His Works!
 - They Were “Good!”
 - “Many Good Works I Have Shewed You!”
 - Good & Excellent & Noble!
 - This Was The “Style” Of His Works!
 - Good In What He Did!
 - Good In How He Did Them! And:
 - Good In Even Why:
 - He Did Them!
 - No Matter What Anyone Else:
 - Thought Of His Works:
 - Jesus Knew That They Were All:
 - Good!
 - But - Jesus Also Tells Us About:
- The Significance Of His Works!
 - He “Shewed” Them To The Jews!
 - And - They Were All Meant:
 - To Show Them Something:
 - About Him!
 - And So - Even In The Face Of Danger:
 - Jesus Did Not Back Down:
 - And Pointed Back To His Works:
 - To Prove Both Who He Was & What He Was Doing!
 - And This Took Courage!
 - Especially When He Tells Them:
 - And Us Once Again About:
- The Source Of His Works!
 - They Were All:
 - “From My Father!”
 - Though Jesus Did What He Did:
 - Personally & Actively:
 - He Did So Also:
 - In Conjunction With His Father:
 - Who Was The Very Source Of His Works!
 - The Source Of:
 - Their Power - And Even Of:
 - Their Purpose!
- And So We See That:
 - Jesus Did All Of His Works:
 - With Great Courage!

- And So - With That Same Courage:
 - He Demanded From The Jews:
 - “For Which Of Those Works Do Ye Stone Me?”
- Jesus Wanted Them:
 - To Believe His Works - So That:
 - Their Faith In His Works:
 - Might Bring Them To Faith In His Words - So That:
 - They Might Follow In His Ways!
- Never Forget How Jesus:
 - Did All Of His Works:
 - With Courage!
 - And - Believe In Them! Believe In Him!
- But Then - We Also See How:
 - Jesus Did All Of His Works:

2. ***With Commitment!***

- Which Is What We Find Next:
 - In 10:34-36 - When Jesus Responds To The Jews Accusation & Charge Of Blasphemy:
 - Because - 10:33 - “That Thou, Being A Man, Makest Thyself God!”
 - How Does Jesus Respond?
 - “Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? / If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; / Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?”
 - Now - Jesus’ Answer Is Drawn From:
 - His Own Knowledge Of:
 - The Old Testament Scriptures:
 - Which - Altogether - Was Often Called “The Law!”
 - And So - Jesus Refers To A Single Verse:
 - And Even A Single Statement:
 - That Focuses On A Single Word:
 - From Psalm 82:6!
 - And - In That Verse:
 - God Himself Calls:
 - A Certain Group Of People:
 - Gods Themselves!
 - Again - 10:34 - “Is It Not Written In Your Law: I Said, Ye Are Gods?”
 - Now - Some Would Say That:
 - Jesus Was Just Being Clever Here:
 - In His Response - And Being A Little:
 - Nit-Picky About The Words Of Scripture - Just Like:
 - The Scribes & Pharisees Often Were!
 - But - When You Consider The Context:
 - Of The Words Jesus Cites Here:
 - I Think There’s Much More To What Jesus Is Saying!
 - And So - Let’s Turn Back To:
 - Psalm 82 - Which The Jews Themselves Would Have Known:
 - And Read This Short Psalm Together!
 - Psalm 82:1-8 - “God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. / How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. / Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. / Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked. / They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. / I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. / But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. / Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations!”
 - Now - In 82:1 - We Find One Of The Names For God Two Times - One At The Beginning & One At The End!
 - At The Beginning - It Is The True God - Elohim - Who Is Standing In The Congregation Of The Mighty!

- But - At The End - The True Elohim Judgeth Among The Elohim!
- Now - Who Are These Mighty Ones?
 - These Other “Elohim?”
 - Or “Gods?”
 - Some Believe They Are Angels!
- But - More Than Likely:
 - They Are The People To Whom God Gave The Responsibility & Authority:
 - To Function In God-Like Ways!
- Even Judges Among God’s People:
 - Who Were Called To:
 - 82:3-4 - “Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. / Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked!”
- And So - When We Come To The Verse:
 - That Jesus Cites In 82:6:
 - It Is The True God Himself:
 - Who Calls These Others:
 - “Gods!”
 - It Is The Elohim - Who Calls:
 - Even Men - Elohim:
 - Because Of Their Responsibility To Function In God-Like & Godly Ways!
- Now - For Jesus: - Back In John 10:
 - This Verse Was Enough:
 - To Make His Point!
 - If The Jews Were Going To Kill Him:
 - Because He Claimed To Be The “Son Of God!” - How Could That Be Blasphemy:
 - If God Himself Called Men “Gods” In The Scripture?
 - Would It Be Blasphemy For Jesus:
 - To Identify Himself As The “Son Of God” When God Himself:
 - Elevates Some Men In Such A Way That He Can Even Call Them “Gods” In The Scriptures!
- Now - Even Though This Probably Would Have Been:
 - An Argument That Those Nit-Picky Jews Woud Have Appreciated - I Believe There Was Something Even More Disarming In Jesus Words!
 - Because - In Psalm 82 - The Ones Whom God Called Gods Were:
 - The Leaders & Judges Of His People, Israel!
 - Even The Same Leaders & Judges:
 - Who Were Standing Around Jesus With Rocks In Their Hands!
- And So - Jesus Refers Them Back To:
 - Psalm 82 - To Point Out That The:
- Jews Failed:
 - To Be God-Like:
 - In Their Functions & Responsibilities - And:
 - To Judge According To God’s Standards!
 - In Fact - So Much Of:
 - Psalm 82 Could Be Applied:
 - To Them & Their Situation!
 - Even The Verse:
 - Right Before The Verse Jesus Cites!
 - 82:5 - “They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course!”
 - The Problem With:
 - The Jewish Leaders In Jesus’ Day:
 - Was That They Failed To Make Judgments According To:
 - God’s Wisdom & Walk & Ways!
 - And So - When Jesus Cites 82:6:
 - “I Have Said, Ye Are Gods!”
 - It’s A Challenge To Start Acting In A God-Like & Godly Way!
 - Especially In The Roles & Responsibilities Given To Them:

- By God!
- But They Failed!
 - Miserably!
 - But - When We Head Back To John 10:
 - We Can See That:
- Jesus Fulfilled:
 - Of All The God-Like Functions & Responsibilities:
 - Required Of Them!
 - After All:
 - According To 10:36 - Jesus Claims Even Further:
 - That He Is The One Who:
 - Was Sanctified:
 - By The Father - And:
 - Was Sent:
 - By The Father!
 - “Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?”
 - Here Jesus Makes Another Claim That:
 - He Was Set Apart & Sent By God The Father To:
 - Be The Judge They Failed To Be!
 - In Fact - Wasn't It Jesus Who:
 - Defended the Poor And Fatherless?
 - Wasn't It Jesus Who:
 - Did Justice To The Afflicted And Needy?
 - Wasn't It Jesus Who:
 - Delivered The Poor And Needy? And:
 - Wasn't It Jesus Who:
 - Rid Them - And Us - Out Of The Hand Of The Wicked?
 - This Is The Gospel!
 - The Good News Of Jesus Christ!
 - He Defends Those Who Believe In Him:
 - And Delivers Us:
 - From Our Greatest Poverty & Needs!
 - What The Leaders Of God's People:
 - Failed To Do - Jesus Fulfilled:
 - Because He Was Absolutely Committed To:
 - The Work That God The Father:
 - Set For Him & Sent Him:
 - To Do!
 - And So - In 10:37-38:
 - Jesus Makes A Remarkable Appeal:
 - To Those Jewish Leaders:
 - Who Still Had Stones In Their Hands To Kill Him!
 - “If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. / But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him!”
 - “Believe The Works!”
 - Jesus Says - Because:
 - His Works Confirm:
 - His Words!
 - “Believe The Works!”
 - Jesus Says - Because:
 - His Conduct Is Proof:
 - Of His Claims!
 - “Believe The Works!”
 - Jesus Says - Because:
 - When You Believe In His Works:
 - That They Are As Great & Good & Gracious As God Himself Is!
 - Your Faith In His Works:

- Will Lead You To Faith In Him!
- What Compassion & Patience:
 - We Find In The Lord Here – Don't We?
 - Even Toward Men Who Would Have Killed Jesus Right Then:
 - If They Could!
 - But - How Does This Scene End?
 - 10:39 - "Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand!"
- Its As If The Power Of Jesus' Words:
 - Struck A Chord In Their Hearts - And:
 - Disarmed Them From The Rocks:
 - That Were In Their Hands!
 - In 10:31 - "The Jews took up stones again to stone him!"
 - But Here - In 10:39 - "They Sought Again To Take Him!"
- Now - Even Though:
 - The Works Of Jesus:
 - Confirm The Words Of Jesus:
 - So Often - The Very Words Of Jesus Accomplish:
 - His Work!
- And That's What They Did Here:
 - Once Again!
 - And That Is Why When:
 - You Have Faith In His Works:
 - You Can Then Follow In His Ways!
 - Which Is What We See Next In:
 - 10:40-42 - Because:
 - Jesus Also Did All Of His Works:

3. ***To Completion!***

- Because - After The Scene At The Temple:
 - We Are Told That He - "Went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. / And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. / And many believed on him there!"
 - From These Verses We See That:
- Where The Ministry Of Jesus:
 - Began - Is:
- Where The Ministry Of Jesus:
 - Ended!
- Because - "The Place Where John At First Baptized!"
 - 1:28 - "Bethabara Beyond Jordan!"
 - Became The Book-Ends Of:
 - Jesus' Ministry To His People!
 - And - The Testimony Of John The Baptist:
 - At The Beginning Of Jesus' Ministry:
 - When He Was Alive!
 - Was Just As Powerful:
 - At The End Of Jesus' Ministry:
 - When He Was Dead!
- 10:41 - "All things that John spake of this man were true!"
 - Remember Some Of The Things That John The Baptist:
 - Said About Jesus?
 - John Testified About:
 - The Preeminence Of Jesus:
 - Back In 1:15 - When He Said:
 - "He That Cometh After Me Is Preferred Before Me!"
 - And This Testimony Was True!
 - John Testified About:
 - The Preexistence Of Jesus:
 - Also In 1:15 - When He Said:

- “For He Was Before Me!”
 - And - This Testimony Was True As Well!
- John Testified About:
 - The Perfection Of Jesus:
 - In 1:29 - When He Proclaimed:
 - “Behold The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!”
 - This Testimony Was Also True!
- But John Also Testified About:
 - The Person Of Jesus:
 - In 1:34 - When He Called Him:
 - The Very “Son Of God!”
 - And - All Of Jesus’ Words & Works Proved That John’s Testimony Was True!
- And So - This Chapter Concludes:
 - On A High Note:
 - “Many Believed On Him There!”
 - Many Put Their Faith:
 - In Jesus - Because Of His Words & Works!
 - And Then Followed In His Ways!

Conclusion:

1. And This Is Still Why:
 - Jesus Calls On Us To:
 - “Believe The Works!”
 - Believe His Works!
 - Because - His Works:
 - Not Only Confirm His Words:
 - But His Works:
 - Are Still Powerful Enough:
 - To Bring You To The Knowledge & Understanding & Belief That:
 - “The Father Is In Jesus & Jesus Is In The Father!”
2. And Now - When You Have:
 - Faith In His Works:
 - In All Of His Works:
 - And Especially - His Work Of:
 - Redemption!
 - His Works With Great:
 - Courage & Commitment & To Completion:
 - You Will Then:
 - Follow In His Ways!
 - With Courage & Commitment & Completion!
 - By His Grace & Through His Strength! Like Paul - To Timothy - Finished Course / Kept The Faith!
3. “Believe The Works!”

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