

Message Notes

"Believe!"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

Introduction – *Christmas Tree 2008!*

God: An Introduction

Time-Out

What does God require of me?

The Work of Belief (John 6:24-29, 35-40)

What does it mean to "believe"?

A definition of belief

How are we called to "believe"?

1. Believe in the Son (1 John 5:11-12, John 14:1, John 3:16)
2. Believe in the Good News of Christmas and Easter (Luke 1:30-33, John 11:25-26)
3. Believe in the invisible (1 Timothy 6:16, John 1:18, John 20:29)
4. Believe NOT in the visible (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
5. Believe it's not about you (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Luke 9:23)
6. Believe once for all (John 20:27) and... moment-by-moment (Galatians 3:2-3)
7. Believe you are, first and foremost, who God says you are (Romans 8:1, Psalm 139:15)
8. Believe God is God and God is good despite what's experienced (Romans 8:35-39)
9. Believe that a personal relationship with God does not absolve responsibility to others (Mark 12:28-31, Luke 24:45-48)
10. Believe that a thankful heart greatly honors God (Colossians 3:17)

Application - *"Do you believe?"*

John 6:24-29, 35-40

24So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. 25When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the

loaves. 27Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.

For on him God the Father has set his seal."

28Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ... 35Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6

1Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible...

6And without faith it is impossible to please him for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.