

OBJECTIVE BELIEF SUBJECTIVE SUBMISSION

If we wish to dissect the process of salvation in a practical sense, there are two sides:

1. Believing the objective facts regarding sin, Jesus' death and resurrection with His accomplished work on the cross as Romans 10:9-11 put it: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed". Furthermore, Hebrews 11:6 puts it thus: "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". In Jesus' own words: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). What does John 3:16 affirm? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". John 3:18 goes on to say: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God". Not believing the objective facts is fatal. 1 John 2:22-23 put it thus: "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also". Further: "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema" (1 Corinthians 16:22). You cannot love the Lord if you do not believe Him. Back to acknowledging the objective facts. Can I ask you personally using Jesus' words in John 11:25-26? Please read: "²⁵Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" It is not about simply believing facts, but a person (the "he that believeth in me"). So, do you believe Him? But a word of warning. That is not enough if you only have an intellectual understanding and belief. James 2:19 reads: "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble". So what else is needed for salvation?

2. The subjective attitude of repentance and submission to God on behalf of the disciple as Matthew 16:24-25 and Luke 14:25-35 put it, a decision that can be costly and difficult.

These 2 aspects to salvation have always been the case, what somebody once called "the Christian Creed and Conduct". Creed according to Romans 1:17b and conduct according to Luke 6:31. They are the components called "doctrine" (what one believes) and "morality" (how one behaves). For example, "the people of Nineveh believed God" (Jonah 3:5a), that is to say, they had faith (compare with Romans 10:9-10), and "they turned from their evil way" (Jonah 3:10), that is to say, they repented (compare with Isaiah 55:7, Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19). Hebrews 11:24-27 also provide the example of Moses when he acted upon these two subjective and objective components: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible".

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