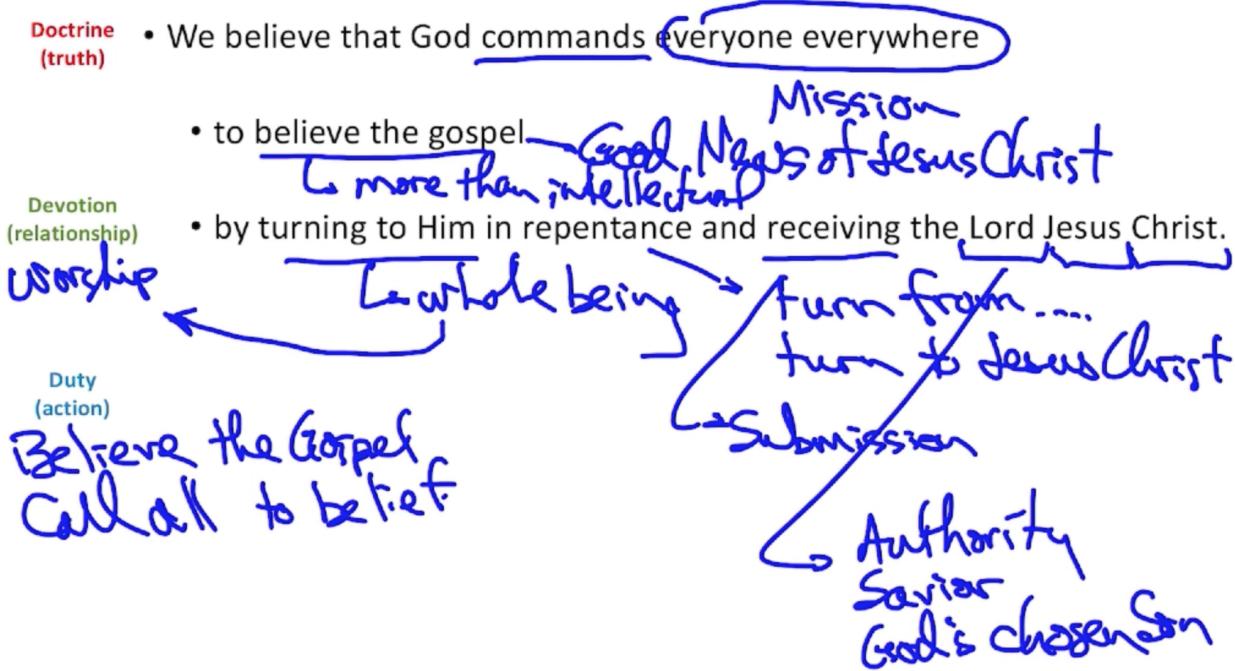


Doctrine 10: Response and Eternal Destiny

10. Response and Eternal Destiny Part 1 of 3



So we come to our final point in the doctrinal statement about response and eternal destiny. So the first aspect is that we believe that God commands, and what He commands is to believe the Gospel and to turn to Him in repentance and receive Him.

So let's explore that. **God commands**, and so there is a **duty** to believe God, to believe the Gospel. And this is actually a duty. This is not just something that, if people choose to do it, that's great. This is a command of God. And so those who do not believe it are actually in violation of this most fundamental command of God. And it's a command of **everyone everywhere**. It's all-inclusive. And this is a key aspect, a key reason, for mission in the Church, that all need to hear the command, all need to understand the command. And it is something that we participate in, the calling of people to do this. And so there also is the duty to call all to belief, to urge people to accept this Good News.

And so what we are to do: everybody is called **to believe the Gospel**, which means the Good News in Jesus Christ: the work that Jesus did in bringing rescue, in giving His life as the perfect Son of God, that we can live. And the call is for everyone to believe this. And it's not merely a belief of the head, so it's more than intellectual. It includes that.

And so what does it mean? Well, in being more than intellectual, it is **to turn to him**, and this is to turn as a whole being. And it's turning in **repentance**, and this is to "turn from." And there's a whole host of things that we need to "turn from." For some of us, it's a key thing of turning from individualism, from this belief that I should be able to determine my life, and I need to

fulfill myself. For others, it's turning from family, it's turning from the control that family comes first, and what they say is all that really matters, and I have to do exactly what they say. or to follow in the path that they determine. It is turning from success in the world's eyes. It's turning from a pursuit of pleasure. It's turning from many things.

And it is "turning to" Jesus Christ. And it is described as **receiving**. And this receiving is, I think, well expressed in this idea of submission. We submit to **the Lord Jesus Christ**. And each of those terms is significant, that we are called to submit to the Lord, and so this is as the ultimate authority in our lives. We're to submit to Jesus, as the name is, our Savior. And We're to submit to Christ as God's chosen Son. And so we are called to belief and to turn to Him.

And this turning to Him with our whole being is a key part of our **devotion**, in worship, that is expressed in submission to Him. This is the command of God to all people everywhere.

10. Response and Eternal Destiny Part 2 of 3

Doctrine (truth) • We believe that God will

- raise the dead bodily → *brought to life for judgment*

Devotion (relationship) • and judge the world, assigning

- the unbeliever to condemnation

Duty (action) and eternal conscious punishment → *Evil unrestrained*

Urgency
Let God & we call all to believe

And this command has consequences. So we believe that, in the end of time, **God will raise the dead bodily**, so this is that all people will be brought to life for judgment. And this will be true of all. And in this, God will judge the world.

And there are two outcomes: the one is for the unbeliever. We'll look at that first. And the other is for the believer. The outcome for the unbeliever is horrendous, this idea of **eternal conscious punishment**. And it's an idea that is beyond comprehension, and nobody in their right mind would choose it. And yet the power of sin is that we do. And one way to understand it is "evil unrestrained", that sin continues in rebellion against God. Sin continues in this conscious rejection of the ways of God, of refusing to submit to God. And the eternal conscious punishment is evil contained, and people experience the unrestrained effects of it, and it's a horrendous thought. And the Bible teaches this, and this clearly creates in us the desire, that

says, "This is why God, and we, call all to believe." It is a critical destiny-altering issue. And so there's a real urgency, because we see the horrible situation for those who are outside of Christ.

10. Response and Eternal Destiny Part 3 of 3

Doctrine
(truth)

- We believe that God will *Reborn in Christ*
 • assign the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord

Devotion
(relationship)

- Relational*
- in the new heaven and the new earth,
 — *without sin sorrow, mourning*
 • to the praise of His glorious grace.

Duty
(action)

Believe

- Amen. *So be it!*

The other side is that we believe that God will **assign the believer**, and again, this is not just somebody who has a mental assent, but those who are reborn in Christ. They are assigned to **eternal blessedness and joy**. And I think this phrase is just so significant, "**with the Lord**." God's intent is that His people would be with Him.

And I think the analogy is a pretty good one, that as we live now, it is kind of like engagement prior to marriage. And the joy that comes with marriage, when the eternal judgment comes, and those who are in Christ are assigned to be with Christ, to be with the Lord. And it will be in the new heaven and the new earth, the anticipation of this place that is without sin, sorrow, or mourning, it is a place of endless joy and growing joy, because of the wonder of being with our Lord! And the reality is that this judgment is **to the praise of His glorious grace**, that even the judgment of those who are outside of Christ demonstrates the significance of the work of Christ for His people.

And so we answer with "**Amen!**" This was a way of saying, "So be it! We agree that God's ways are good even though they're sometimes mysterious." And so we do have the duty to believe. And this **duty** is deeply a **devotion**, because it is a relational belief, it is a relational connection with our God. And so we long for that day, and we long for all people to also join in that eternal blessedness, the joy with the Lord that is to the praise of His glorious grace.

So be it! Come, Lord Jesus!