

# BELIEVER – or – MAKE-BELIEVER?

In the realm of Faith, and Serious Christianity there comes the question of sincerity -- real belief and commitment -- thus the title of this article.

To paraphrase Shakespeare -- "To BELieve or not to BELieve -- that is the question" -- and that is the question that each of us must personally answer.

To believe in God, Christ, and the Bible -- the True history as recorded and preserved for thousands of years -- or to refuse to accept the recorded writings of men of Faith and simply accept modern scholars with their man-made philosophies, is a serious matter that will shape our destiny for eternity.

Let's consider -- The Bible claims very clearly, *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (2 Timothy 3:16). *"Prophesy never came by the will of man, but Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:21). *"Whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope"* (Romans 15:4).

Think also -- the Bible was written by some 40 men over a period of 1500 years in several languages and has survived all the persecution through the years. Only God in His Sovereign Power could have compiled and preserved these writings from destruction all this time.

So, we must consider exactly what we are going to Believe -- or not to Believe -- to be a "Believer or Make-Believer" -- the choice is up to us!

Many today have a form of godliness, but by their life-styles actually deny what they claim to believe. This is where the Make-Believer becomes evident. To simply go through the forms and rituals of "Church Attendance" without having a full grip on the actuality of Faith is to "Play-Act" or to "Put on a Show."

Real Faith is to live a completely different life-style than what is all around us -- to "put off" the old life and "put on" the new life of Christ (Colossians 3:8-16).

A verse comes to mind concerning Believing, *"He that Believes on the Son has Everlasting Life -- and he that Believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides in him"* (John 3:36). There is New Life in Christ and the Blessed Assurance of a Home in Heaven.

To "Believe" is to have a complete life-changing experience -- to "Make-Believe" is a sham, to play-act, to attempt to appear as something that is not real.

True Belief does not come from the mind -- but from the heart. When you find the right mate and marry it is a total commitment for life -- so too, when you find true Faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ it is total commitment for Life.

Many Church attenders today are "Make-Believers" while there is no real change in their life-styles and attitudes. The old circus magnate, P.T. Barnum said it right, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and you can fool all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

When you "Make-Believe" in Christianity sooner or later the Truth will shine through and you will be exposed for what you really are.

Take the giant-step today -- come all-out for God -- stand up strong and straight (1 Corinthians 15:58) and proclaim with your voice and life that you are a True Believer in God and in Jesus Christ.

Remember, Paul the Apostle said, *"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the Power of God to Salvation for everyone who Believes"* (Romans 1:16).

Jesus Himself said, *"Whoever denies Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father who is in Heaven"* (Matthew 10:33).

Think it over -- this is serious -- are you a "BELIEVER or a MAKE-BELIEVER?"

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