

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

I Still Believe (part 1)

SERIES

I Still Believe

DATE

12/5/2021

KEY SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 6:16

SYNOPSIS

The things I learned in my youth are still true today, despite how much society has changed.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ I Still Believe (part 1)

Jeremiah 6:16

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

I basically was born and raised in the church. I grew up going to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night and sometimes other days of the week, too. I learned about Jesus, heaven, hell, and salvation from my youngest days. I received Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was just a kid. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit when I was a teenager. I heard the call of God on my life and went to Bible College to follow his lead. I’ve been in pastoral ministry for more than 30 years. In all that time, a lot has changed. But some things remain the same. I still believe what I learned all those years ago.

This past year has been especially difficult with ongoing COVID, economic and political concerns. But even closer to home has been a number of people I’ve known for years, passing away... and in my eyes, before their time. It’s been a challenging season. My faith has been tested. My doubts have come to the surface. I’ve had to wrestle through cynical thoughts and yet be careful to not fall into unbelief. In the midst of this turmoil, I wrote these lyrics to express how I was feeling:

Sometimes I wonder, “are the promises true?” Sometimes I wonder, “did I miss my cue?” It seems like I’ve been waiting for so long and I’m not sure if I can always be that strong. Sometimes I wonder.

Oh, Lord, I’m so tired, always waiting my turn. Oh, Lord, I’m so tired, seems I always get burned. Just when I think that I am gaining ground, it seems that more trouble always comes around. Oh, Lord, I’m so tired.

But when I doubt, then I reach out. I seek his face and ask for grace. I won’t give up. I’ll keep the faith. I won’t give in. I’ll run the race. I still believe. I still believe. I still believe.

☞ I still believe in the Virgin Birth.

Matthew 1:21-23

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us."

The birth of Jesus was a miracle performed by a miracle-working God. Jesus was no ordinary man. Yes, he had flesh and blood. Yes, he could be tempted as we are. But he was the only begotten Son of God. John 1:1, speaking of Jesus, says, “The Word was God.” And then, in verse 14, it says, “The Word became flesh.” Jesus truly was Immanuel, God with us.

☞ Isaiah 9:6



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jesus was born of God and he is God, he is the Prince of Peace and he will reign forever. I still believe in the Virgin Birth.

☞ I still believe Jesus died for our sins.

Luke 23:44-46

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

☞ 1 Corinthians 15:3

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures

Here's the truth. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23. Every one of us has missed the mark. Because of that, we all deserve to die. Romans 6:23. None of us is worthy of eternal life in heaven. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:23. All we have to do is believe and receive this great gift! I still believe Jesus died for our sins.

☞ I still believe Jesus rose from the dead.

Luke 24:1-6

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen!

There have been numerous prophets and teachers throughout history – some true and some false. You've heard of some: Moses, Elijah, Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, and more. Do you know what they all have in common? They died and are still in the grave. Jesus also died, but he's no longer in the grave. He is living today. And his resurrection gives us great hope.

☞ 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

By faith in the Lord Jesus – his virgin birth, his death, and his resurrection, we also can be resurrected in the last day and live eternally in heaven. I still believe in the resurrection.

☞ I still believe in heaven and hell.



Daniel 12:2

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

There is an eternity ahead for all people. It can be all good or all bad. Heaven and hell are real. Hell is not a place where you will go to hang out and party with your friends.

Matthew 25:41

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

☞ Revelation 21:8

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Hell is real and it is a horrible place of eternal pain and torment.

Heaven is not just floating around on fluffy clouds, playing harps.

☞ Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

☞ Revelation 22:3-5

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Heaven will be beyond our imaginations. The bible only gives us glimpses and uses images from the natural world to describe it. But it will be even greater than that. Heaven is real and is a place of everlasting peace and joy. I still believe in heaven and hell.

☞ I still believe in salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

Everyone has the option of heaven or hell. When you choose heaven, the bible calls that being "saved" from sin and hell. I still believe in salvation, and salvation cannot be earned. In pop culture, those who believe in heaven and hell, think that if you're a good person, or more good than bad, you get to go to heaven. But, that's not what the Bible teaches.



Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

☞ Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast

Salvation is only available because of God's mercy and grace. This is one of the primary reasons we often say that God is good... all the time... and all the time... God is good. This gift of God is all about Jesus. Another popular belief in society is that all roads lead to heaven. "Just believe something. Be a good person. Follow your heart..." Again, the bible says something different.

☞ John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (*Jesus*) under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

It's all about Jesus and what you believe about him.

☞ Romans 10:9

if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Do you really believe? Do you believe what I've been talking about today? Do you believe Jesus died for your sins? Do you believe God raised him from the dead? Will you turn to him for salvation?

It's as easy as ABC.

☞ **A – admit** you have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. You need a savior.

B – believe in Jesus. He died for you. He rose from the dead. He is the Lord of all.

C – confess that he is your Lord. Choose to live for him, obey him and follow him the rest of your days.

Would you like to be saved? Would you like to make sure you have a place in heaven rather than in hell? Would you like to live forever in peace and joy? The Bible says, "today is the day of salvation." Don't wait another day. Turn to God today!