

## Intellectual versus Spiritual Belief

Common people have for centuries used the New Testament teachings to base their behavior on in the world. This did not make them any the less *of* the world, however. The New Testament writings helped them to do good even though they only had intellectual light to see by. This meant they could not live the way the New Testament writings commanded. Since they did not have the love of Rom 5:5, they could not live as the early believers lived, together and having all things in common, as the gospel demands (Lk 14:26,33 and Mk 10:29-30). But without Rom 5:5 it is impossible to love as Messiah loved (Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 3:14,16,23) or be in unity together as the Father and the Son (Jn 17:23). All who believe only intellectually cannot do these two things, since the Father and the Son are *spiritually* one, as are all who believe (Acts 4:32).

So down through the centuries Christians have used the New Testament to base ethical behavior upon. They were Christians, but not disciples as Lk 14:33, since verse 26 is the radical gospel, but too radical for those who “believe” as Jn 2:23-25. Although they believed because of the great miracles, still they did not believe *spiritually*, but only *intellectually*. In fact, they were full of excuses in Lk 14:16-24. For Lk 14:26 and 33 is the gospel that must be obeyed if one has spiritual light. There is a great chasm between those who believe intellectually and those who believe spiritually. The word *believe* in Jn 3:16 is defined by Acts 2:44 and 4:32.

Lk 14:26 and 33 supports the story of the rich young ruler in Mk 10:17-22 and the gospel of salvation in Mk 10:28-30. Lk 14:28 and 31-33 are mandatory for eternal life, as 2 Ths 1:8-9 warns those who think otherwise. And after Lk 14:33 come verses 34-35 — our Master said that the true gospel is good, as salt is good, but if the salt has become tasteless, as the Christian gospel has become, how can it be revived to its original radical message? So the Christian gospel is not worth a pile of manure as far as eternal life is concerned. Eternal life is what the rich young ruler asked for, but he refused to obey the gospel in order to obtain it. So whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

The New Testament scriptures put such a heavy load on the backs of those who do not have the power to obey. Since Rom 5:5 is not a reality for them, they make up justifications and rationalizations as to how it is not relevant today. They say that the original message that caused Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32-37 is irrelevant, not pertinent or even applicable, and is even inappropriate to even demand it in the gospel today. They come close to cursing it as “works salvation.” They reason that Christianity is no longer such that believers need to live in such groupings together, since it is no longer a minority group which must struggle for its life, as the Jews in 1917 in Palestine needed to live in kibbutzim until secularism developed in Jerusalem.

Christians find such scriptures as Mt 10:37, as applied to Lk 14:26 or Mk 10:21,29-30, very problematic for today’s culture. They say that only cults live as such and are perplexing to others, thus presenting a problem to society. Even 2 Ths 1:8-9 is not relevant for today, since the gospel is no longer to be obeyed, nor need it be, but is only to be “believed,” lest it be by works and not faith.

If you don’t believe what I’m saying, then ask yourself if it’s not true. Then you will believe what it means to not believe, though you believe at the same time. So you have to think this way until 2 Ths 1:8-9. There will be no more doubt or confusion then.