

## **What We Must Believe**

### **12-20-15 PM**

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of belief in Salvation. Belief is the underlying basis of salvation

- It is the first work from God – John 6:28-29
- It is the meaning of confession – Romans 10:9-10
- It is the value of repentance – Mark 1:15
- It is the success of baptism – Mark 16:16

With this significance in mind, what is it we should believe? We know that there are many things we do not understand when we come to Christ, and so we must conclude this would not be the “meatier” matters (Hebrews 5:12-14), but instead the fundamental principles of Christ listed in Hebrews 6:1-2. Perhaps we might consider that our belief must be on the identity of Jesus, as Jesus said in John 8:24 “I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am [He], you shall die in your sins.”

John tells us that he wrote this Gospel so that we would believe in the identity of Jesus. This is our core belief, summed up in our confession at baptism: John 20:31 “*these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*” But we might also consider the significance of the term “I AM” used in John 8:24; this application (we might see this as “Jehovah” is an identity aspect of Jesus that is referred to seven times in the Gospel of John. We can study these seven “I AM”s to understand who Jesus is, and what we need to believe on in Him.

#### **Seven “I AM”s that we must believe:**

##### **I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE**

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

##### **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

##### **I AM THE DOOR**

John 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”

John 10:9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

##### **I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”

##### **I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

##### **I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE**

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

##### **I AM THE VINE**

John 15:1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Now with these seven “IAM”s, there are also seven corresponding responses by the good and honest heart.

- I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE - He who **comes to Me** shall never hunger
- I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - He who **follows Me** shall not walk in darkness
- I AM THE DOOR - (He who) **enters by Me**, he will be saved
- I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD - (He who **knows Me** will be known by me).
- I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE - He who **believes in Me**....shall live.
- I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE – (He who **comes through Me** comes to the Father)
- I AM THE VINE – (He who **abides in me** is a branch bearing fruit)

It matters what we believe about Jesus. Belief is the basis to successful obedience. We must believe in the identity of Jesus as revealed in Scriptures. We must react in that belief, as witnessed in Acts 16:30-33.