

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# Christians Believe Weird Things!

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I Corinthians 3:18-23

**1 Our Christian faith must seem weird to the world. 2 God gives us all a choice, heaven or hell. Then, He gives us salvation as a free gift! 3 If this choice is so easy, why doesn't everybody come flocking to the church door? 4**

**Maybe it's because they haven't heard the good news. They don't know what the choice is! They need the gospel message. 5**

**Maybe they just don't want to give up what the world offers - this temporary existence; for eternal life - the permanent! The "get it now while you can" attitude our culture encourages is so firmly embedded in their psych. 6**

**Maybe they are afraid of being hypocritical. Our Christian standards seem so high to them. 7**

**Maybe they just don't want to commit to anything! After all, we are all encouraged to leave our options open. There is always change. You don't know what the future holds. Everything in life is so uncertain.**

**Hold off any commitments until the last moment. We have time. Let's just see what happens. <sup>8</sup>**

**Maybe God's way just doesn't make sense. <sup>9</sup> First Corinthians, chapter 3, verses 18 through 23, say, **Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a “fool” so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. <sup>10</sup>****

**The world tells you that the gospel message of grace is too simple. There's got to be a catch! The word "fool" in the original language <sup>1</sup> means dumb, or stupid. We get our English word "moron" from this**

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<sup>1</sup> μωρός.

word. <sup>11</sup> Some people are too intellectually proud; too sophisticated for things that don't make sense. To them, God's simple plan of salvation becomes an insult! <sup>12</sup>

God's way and Satan's way - the world's way, are opposed to each other. <sup>13</sup> Satan's world encourages you to be independent, do your own thing, be your own boss and don't count on others. Don't trust anyone. <sup>14</sup>

God's way is to **cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.** <sup>2</sup> <sup>15</sup> God's wisdom seems too foolish to those oriented in this world but it's **the power of God for salvation** <sup>3</sup> none the less. <sup>16</sup>

So, what do we Christians believe that sounds so weird to the world? <sup>17</sup>

The first weird thing is . . .

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<sup>2</sup> | Peter 5:7.

<sup>3</sup> Romans 1:16.

## **I. You've Got to Lose Your Life to Find It!**

**You've got to lose your life to find it! <sup>18</sup>**

**What does the world say? "Get out there and make something of yourself" That usually means "make money!" "You've got to provide for your family." "You've got to keep up with the Jones's" (Whoever they are). To be successful, prove yourself!" <sup>19</sup>**

**But God says this in Matthew, chapter 10, verses 34 through 39, <sup>20</sup> Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>21</sup>**

Notice verse 27 here implies if you love your father, mother or children more than you love God you love them too much! <sup>4</sup> <sub>22</sub>

Again, in Matthew, chapter 6, verse 33, **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** Give up every temporary interest that's a barrier to your commitment to God and you'll have real permanent life! <sub>23</sub>

Listen to Lord Jesus again, this time in Matthew, chapter 22, verse 37, **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'** This is the first and greatest commandment. This doesn't leave much room for earthly loyalties does it? <sub>24</sub>

Lose your earthly temporary life in Jesus and you will find heavenly life in eternity! <sub>25</sub>

The second weird thing is . . .

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<sup>4</sup> Matthew 10: 37 - Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

## II. You Must Be Last to Become First!

You must be last to become first! <sup>26</sup>

What does the world say? Strive to get ahead in this life for "he who hesitates is lost". "You've got to be number 1!" <sup>27</sup>

But God says in Mark, chapter 10, verses 28 through 31, <sup>28</sup> Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields — and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

What is the Lord implying here? <sup>29</sup> There's no room for selfish pride in the Kingdom of God! For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles

**himself will be exalted.** <sup>5</sup> <sup>30</sup> In the Lord's Parable of the Laborers in the Field, the workers who got paid last where the ones who worked the longest and all the laborers got the same pay regardless of how long they worked! <sup>6</sup>

God doesn't use the standards of this world for His judgments. <sup>31</sup> Humbleness and dependence are more important than achievements!

The last weird thing I want to discuss here is . . . <sup>32</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 23:12.

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 20:1-16 - For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. "He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' " 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'



### **III. You Must Be Weak to Become Strong!**

**You must be weak to become strong! <sup>33</sup>**

**What does the world say? "This is a dog eat dog world." "You've got to be tough and crafty to survive."**

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**What does God's word say? <sup>35</sup> In Second Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 7 through 10, it says, To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. <sup>36</sup>**

**The more you rely on God's power instead of your own, the stronger you will be to accomplish His work!**

**<sup>37</sup> The reason most of us are not as effective with our witness as we could be is we try it on our own without God's direction and power.**

**These things sound foolish from the world's point of view. <sup>38</sup> But who are you going to trust? God or the world? <sup>39</sup>**

**Lose your life in God. <sup>40</sup> Be last in your own eyes and the eyes of the world for His sake. <sup>41</sup> Regard yourself as insufficient for the task without His direction and power. <sup>42</sup>**

**You can become a dynamic influence in this world. As a shining light you can prove to this world that the wisdom of God is the only genuine way to life!**

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**