

“This is the work of God.” John chapter 6 verse 29

I would be good to know, wouldn't it, exactly what it is that God requires of people? After all, there is a multitude of voices in this world claiming to be able to tell us how to be right with God. It usually comes down to various kinds of behaviours or religious rituals, disciplines and observances, and while it's true that there are many similarities, there are also many differences, particularly in the area of what we need to do to make ourselves right with God.

Jesus was very clear about it. When people asked him what they needed to do in order to do what God required he said “This is the work of God – that you believe in the one he has sent.” But what does that mean? I could point out a number of faith traditions, all of which would say that they believe in Jesus, but what they believe about who he is varies enormously.

But what Jesus means when he says that we are to believe in him is a very particular thing. It means having a spiritual insight into who he is; the Christ, the Son of the living God. And it means submitting lives to his governance, care and guidance. Believing in Jesus is more than just an intellectual or even a religious exercise.

I've been reading a book by Benjamin Ingham, who founded our church in 1750. He uses the illustration of a person taking medicine to help us understand what it means to believe in Jesus. A sick person may believe that the medicine is able to heal everyone of the particular illness for which it is intended, but that person will not be healed by it until he takes it. Even then, it is the medicine, not his taking of it that heals him.

People complain that God has done nothing about the wickedness and suffering that is destroying our world, but they do not realise that the answer has been available for two thousand years in the form of the resurrected Jesus. They want to see the saving and healing power of God applied to some external cause of evil, not understanding that the cause of all the problems of the world are caused by the sin in the hearts of every individual person.

The answer is for individuals to receive Jesus into their personal lives, turning from their own way and following him. Those who do that then become part of God's answer for the world.

Have you opened your own life to that answer by believing in Jesus for yourself?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for sending Jesus, so that people might turn their hearts to you and be reconciled to relationship with you. Thank you for the countless number of people who have given their lives to you throughout history. I pray today that many more may open their hearts to you so that they may be changed and become agents of change in the world. In Jesus name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*