

Difference Between Believers and Unbelievers

In God's Word, the Bible, we are told of a sharp contrast between an unbeliever {one who has never trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour} and a believer, one who has truly repented of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the full and final atonement for sin, and trust, Him as Saviour.

UNBELIEVER:

Lost – “He that believeth on him is not condemned: {*Is acquitted, is justified before God.*} but he that believeth not [All who do not believe, whether the gospel has come to them or not.] is condemned already, [There is no condemnation so terrible as this--that God disapproves our conduct, and that he will express his disapproval. He will judge according to truth, and woe to that man whose conduct God cannot approve.] because [There is but one way by which men can be freed from condemnation. They who do not believe are still under this condemnation, not having embraced the only way by which they can be delivered from it.] he hath not believed in the name of the forgotten Son of God.” --John 3:18

BELIEVER:

Saved – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” --Ephesians 2:8-9 [Grace, with no respect to human worthiness, confers the glorious gift. Faith, with an empty hand, and without any pretense to a personal deserved reward, receives the heavenly blessing. And this is not of yourselves-This refers to the whole present case, That ye are saved through faith, is the gift of God.] --John Wesley

UNBELIEVER:

Dead in Sins – “And you hath he quickened, who were dead [Absolutely void of all spiritual life; and as incapable of quickening yourselves, as persons literally dead.] in trespasses and sins;” --Ephesians 2:1

BELIEVER:

Dead to Sin – “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” --Romans 6:11 [So then, from Christ's death and resurrection, conclude ye yourselves to have been dead verily by sin, but now made alive by God, who at present delivers you from the spiritual death by regeneration, and will deliver you from the bodily death by a blessed resurrection, through Christ Jesus our Lord.] --James MacKnight

UNBELIEVER:

Child of the Devil – “Ye are of your father the devil [“Ye are of your father the devil] Ye are the seed of the old serpent.”], and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.” --John 8:44

BELIEVER:

Child of God – “But as many as received him [of Jews and Gentiles], to them gave he power {authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.} to become the sons of God; that is, on him. The moment they believe, they/we are sons;], even to them that believe on his name:” --John 1:12

UNBELIEVER:

Far From God – “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:” --Ephesians 2:12

BELIEVER:

Nigh to God – “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” --Ephesians 2:13 [But let your hearts reflect with joy and thankfulness on that blessed change which thy divine goodness hath now made in your condition, by bringing you to faith in Christ Jesus; for having cordially embraced him as exhibited in the gospel, ye who were formerly afar off from God, and from all the hopes and privileges of his people, are now brought near to God and to each other by the atoning blood of Christ, whereby he hath expiated your guilt, and made a free and honourable way for your approach to God, and partaking in all the benefits of his church.] --Philip Doddridge

UNBELIEVER:

Sure, of Hell – “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” --Revelation 21:8

BELIEVER:

Sure, of Heaven – “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,” --1 Peter 1:4

Incorruptible: undecaying; not corruptible, immortal.

Undefiled: unsoiled

Fadeth not away: unfading, i.e. (by implication) perpetual

{And by whom we are brought to the cheerful and confident expectation of an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading, which nothing can spoil, which nothing can pollute, and which is incapable of any internal decay, as well as external violence. This inheritance is reserved in the heavens for you, and for all true believers:}

UNBELIEVER:

Awaits Judgment – “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” --Hebrews 9:27

Judgment: Greek krisis, kree'-sis decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law): --accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment.

BELIEVER:

Awaits Christ's Glory – “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” --Philippians 3:20-21 [But our conversation, which ye ought to imitate, is for obtaining heaven; our thoughts, affections, cares, and hopes, are all directed to the obtaining of heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come and carry us thither, according to his promise. Who, to make us capable of the enjoyments of heaven, will now make our body, which is humbled into a state of mortality by the sin of the first man, that it may become of a like form with his glorious body, in which he now liveth; and this transformation of our body, he will accomplish (Greek) agreeably to that strong working, by which he is able also to subdue all wicked men and devils, at length, to himself, by punishing them as they deserve.] --James MacKnight

UNBELIEVER:

Under God's Wrath – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” --John 3:36

BELIEVER:

Under God's Favor – “By whom also we have access by faith into that grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” --Romans 5:2 [by whom we have been introduced by the means of faith, into that state of grace and acceptance in which we now stand with humble boldness in his presence, and cheerful confidence that nothing shall remove us from his favour. And by a further consequence, we do not only boast in some considerable present privileges, but boast in a pleasant and assured hope of inheriting at length the glory of God, a state of perpetual splendour and happiness in the house and presence of our heavenly Father, in which he will, if we were, adorn us with the rays of his own glory.] --Philip Doddridge

Friend, during your journey of life you will make many decisions, but, the most important decision will determine where you spend eternity and it will be either Heaven or Hell – there is no place in-between. You have read the contrast between being saved and being lost. What will be your decision be; will you repent and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour or will you reject Him? Neutral you cannot be for one day your soul will be asking, what will He do with me. “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” --1 John 5:11-13

~Richard A. Ciarrocca Nov./2019