



it doesn't matter

"It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere." That's what a plumbing salesman told me one day—and so many people have said the same thing that it is almost a proverb.

This popular saying puts a premium on sincerity, and sincerity is a rare thing in this age of sham. We all admire the man who is sincere and despise the hypocrite. We have great respect for the man who is so sincerely in earnest in his convictions that he is willing to die for them.

But sincerity is not enough.

Mr. Monroe sincerely believed that the railroad tracks were clear or he wouldn't have been caught on the tracks in his car, and hurled into eternity.

Mrs. Jones sincerely believed it was a dose of medicine she was taking from the medicine cabinet. It turned out to be poison and she died.

Joe Brady felt sincerely that he was doing the right thing to rid the community of the man he hated. But the court did not think so, and the electric chair awaited him.

Nor will sincerity save your soul if you believe the wrong thing. In fact, it is far more

deadly to believe the wrong thing than to drink poison.

The statement, "It doesn't matter what you believe," assumes that any faith is all right and will get you to heaven if you follow it sincerely. But that isn't so!

The heathen are in great earnest as they worship their images of wood and stone. The Hindu fakirs that go on long pilgrimages or lie for years on beds of spikes are utterly sincere—but *they are lost*. The Mohammedans stop work and drop on their knees wherever they may be and pray to Allah five times daily. Many of them are sincere too, *but they are lost*. The Jews with unquestioned sincerity go through a careful ritual of feasts and days, but multitudes of them have rejected the Christ, and *so they too are lost*.

Not even all so-called Christians are saved. If you place your hope of salvation in a pope or in the intercessions of priests and departed saints, you are lost. If you rest your faith in religious ceremonies, you are lost. If you think the pearly gates of heaven will swing open for you because you are a self-righteous moral man or because of charities done to merit eternal life, you may be one hundred per cent sincere, but you will *certainly* be lost. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven," said Christ.

It is the devil's lie that it makes no differ-

ence what you believe. It makes a world of difference — an eternity of difference — what you believe! A person can be saved only by coming as a needy, helpless sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ and accepting His pardon—a pardon made possible because Christ died on the cross the death we deserved to die. He alone can save us and keep us saved. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," cried the Apostle Peter.

It *does* matter what you believe. Anchor your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with all the sincerity of your heart, and He will give you the peace with God and everlasting life.

—George Smoker

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