

SELF-FEEDER

E.A.R.S. — Application
October 15, 2023

Matthew 13:15-16

“God has appointed a particular and lively application of his Word to affect men’s hearts and affections.” **Jonathan Edwards**

2 questions for application...

1. WHAT DO I NEED TO BELIEVE?

“We cannot place behavior before belief because what we believe generally determines how we behave.” **O.S. Hawkins**

Isaiah 6:3-5

Transformation always comes after an understanding of God’s truth.

Romans 5:8

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:1

“Holy practice will not flourish without sound doctrine.” **J.C. Ryle**

2. IN WHAT WAY(S) SHOULD BELIEFS TRANSFORM MY BEHAVIOR?

“Theology is application. If it doesn’t edify, it is worthless. It is not information for information’s sake. It should never be a vehicle of intellectual pride.” **John Frame**

2 Responses...

1. Put Off (Repentance)

Ephesians 4:22

“When our Lord Jesus Christ said ‘repent’ he meant that the whole of the Christian life should be repentance.” **Martin Luther**

2. Put On (Obedience)

Matthew 12:43-45

“Obedience to God’s commands is of major importance to true religion. It was in the Old Testament, and it is in the New Covenant. Just before going to the cross, our precious Lord said, ‘If you love me, you will obey what I command’ (John 14:15). Obeying commandments and doing good works are vital to Christianity.” **Walter Chantry**

“Let me tremble at God’s word, and let me, in reading it, keep three purposes in view:
To collect facts rather than form opinions;
To regulate practice rather than encourage speculation;
To aid devotion rather than dispute.” **Ernie Reisinger**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Based on your understanding of this passage, what are some things you might need to believe about God, Christ, and what the Lord has done for you?
2. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Based on your understanding of this passage, how might the truth of the passage impact how you live?