

“It Doesn’t Make Any Difference What Anyone Believes”

John 3:14-21, 35-36



We often hear sentiments such as these: “It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere.” “People believe different things but all paths eventually lead to God.” “If we truly love one another, we will respect the beliefs of others and not allow doctrine to divide us.”

J. Gresham Machen (1881-1937) was a great defender of the Bible in the days when modernistic unbelief was pervasive in America. There is one incident in the life of this great Greek scholar and erudite professor that points out, in bold relief, his utter devotion to the Word of God. He was speaking at the Chicago Divinity School. There were two thousand in attendance, standing room only, with reporters in the front row. He held the crowd spellbound with his simple yet eloquent message of the Gospel. At the close there was time for questions.

A woman reporter ventured to ask, “Dr. Machen, you do not seem to think very much of man. What reason do you have for so belittling him?” Without hesitation he replied, “All I did was to present what the Bible says.” “But really Dr. Machen,” the woman reporter rejoined, “It doesn’t make any difference what anyone believes, does it? Just so he believes something?”

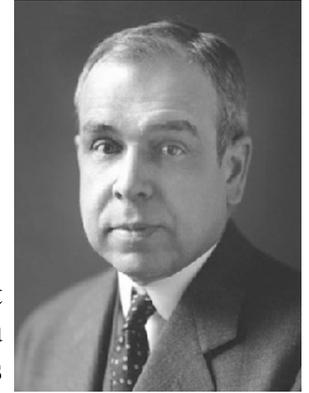
An eyewitness reported that chills shot up and down his spine as he watched this great man of God at this moment. Dr. Machen could have passed her comment off with some innocuous reply, but that was definitely not Machen’s way of doing things! He leaned over the lectern and looked the questioner right in the eye. Then he simply said, **“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*).

No more questions! The meeting was adjourned.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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