

Good morning! Have you ever read *The Late Great Planet Earth*? Hal Lindsey published that book in 1970 and it was a huge bestseller, advancing the idea that we were in the “last days” and that God was about to wind it all up. Lindsey did not claim to be a prophet, but he claimed to be an interpreter of scripture, and he said that, from his interpretation, the Rapture of the church would take place within one generation. Everyone was reading it and many people acted on it. They dropped out of school; they quit their jobs; Jesus was coming! What we believe matters. Belief is important and the Bible talks a lot about it, so this morning, let’s read a passage together---a passage that talks about belief:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**John 20:31**

Let’s read that again: *“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”* Isn’t that interesting? Believing brings life. It brings life here and now. Eternal life doesn’t come to us by dying---it comes by *believing*. Many great things have come into being by someone believing. Churches are planted; the hungry are fed. Victims of natural disasters are rescued. My friend Harmon Parker builds bridges in Africa because of believing. Our friends John and Habona Kisamwa operate Ray of Hope Community in Kenya; they care for 26 orphans and run a pre-school with around 80 children because of believing. Believing produces life. Let me ask you this question this morning: What do you believe? OK, what does your belief make you *do*?