

## The Faith that “Turned The World Upside Down”

The apostle John makes a simple statement that explains forever how the early church “turned the world upside down” for Christ. He said, “and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:4 What is this faith that has such power to overcome the world? Is the apostle bragging on how much they had been able to believe God? Actually, not at all. John revealed what this mighty “faith” is three verses prior when he says, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” 1 John 5:1. The faith that overcomes the world is contained in these four simple words: **“Jesus is the Christ!”**

“Jesus is the Christ” was the faith of Martha just before Jesus raised her brother Lazarus from the dead. She told Jesus, “I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world” John 11:27. This was also the faith of Peter which Jesus said he received from the Father in heaven: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” Matthew 16:15. It is a simple message, but it is what the apostles preached everywhere they went. It is the message that “turned the world upside down” Acts 17:6 in their generation, and it will do so wherever it is preached in this generation.

Saul of Tarsus was converted to Jesus on the road to Damascus, where his mission was to arrest those Jews who believed “Jesus is the Christ,” and bring them back to Jerusalem to stand trial. What could bring about such a powerful conversion? He met Jesus, and instantly knew the truth, that “Jesus is the Christ.” Three days later he was filled with the Holy Ghost and immediately began preaching in the synagogues of Damascus that “Christ is the Son of God” and Jesus is “very Christ” Acts 9:20-22. Fifteen years later, on his second missionary journey, Paul was still preaching this same message everywhere he went.

On his first visit to Thessalonica, Paul began by preaching “the Christ,” whom every Jew loved and longed for. The Jews had been taught about the coming of “the Christ (their Messiah)” continuously from their childhood, just as the children of Christians are taught about Jesus. They knew Christ would destroy the works of the devil John 3:8 by bruising the head of the serpent, and that he would make an end of sins

and bring in everlasting righteousness. Daniel 9:24-25. Before Paul even hinted the name of Jesus, he took the time to prove from the scriptures of the Old Testament prophets that Christ “must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead.” After establishing the connection between the promise of “the Christ” and the prophecies of His sufferings, he boldly told the Jews in their synagogue, “This Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.” Acts 17:3.

Only a few of the Jews believed, but “of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few” Acts 17:4. In only three weeks a great church was established among the Gentiles. The scripture says, however, “But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar” Acts 17:5. They brought charges before the rulers of the city against a few of the Jews that believed, saying “...these (Paul and Silas) that have turned the world upside down are come hither also” Acts 17:6. They “overcame the world,” they “turned it upside down” simply preaching “Jesus is the Christ.”

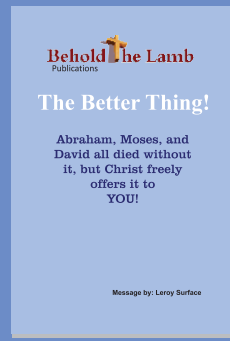
During the past fifty years there have been those who are called “faith teachers” who have actually destroyed “the faith” of millions of people. They have taught that

faith is a “substance (something tangible);” that it is a “power” within itself; that we should “have faith in faith;” that God “used faith to create the worlds;” or in some cases that “faith” is nothing more than “positive thinking.” These teach that a single doubt or negative thought will keep God from doing anything for you. They have brought millions of people into the bondage of their corruption, while they have become rich on the offerings of those who are trying to believe. Their “faith” has destroyed faith.

Faith is simply “believing God,” and “believing God” is the “sub-stance” (what we stand upon) to receive the promise of God, which is the “hope” of every child of God. Our “hope” is not for tangible things, but we “rejoice in hope of the glory of God” Romans 5:2. To “believe God” is to “believe the record God gave of His Son” 1 John 5:10, a “record” which He gave hundreds of years before Jesus was born to Mary. Christ, the creator, became a man, the “Son of God,” to “take away the sin of the world,” which entered the world through Adam’s disobedience. Believe the truth, go “free from sin,” and live your life in “righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

**Jesus is the Christ!**

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