

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

December 28, 2023

“ ...but I Believe!”

One night in a dream I saw the second coming of Jesus Christ. I was rising to meet the Lord in the air when the dream went backwards in time to a period shortly before Jesus' appearance in the clouds and then began to move forward again.

I found myself standing on top of one of many open-top boxcars on a train speeding down a railroad track. The boxcars were filled with people, some of which I knew. It had the appearance of a social gathering where people had glasses in their hands and snacked on “party foods.” In retrospect, I have often considered these boxcars were churches or groups of church people. As I stood there, my mind was conscience of the coming of Jesus Christ, which I had just seen. I got the attention of a man I recognized, who reached up and shook my hand. I grabbed his hand and spoke these words: “Jesus is coming! We’ve got to be real!” The man agreed with what I spoke but seemed embarrassed that I was speaking it at that moment. I knew he did not understand the urgency, so I held to his hand and repeated the statement. “Jesus is coming! We’ve got to be real!” This time the man tried to ignore my grip on his hand and attempted to continue his socializing with others in the boxcar.

It was then I reached the point where the dream initially began and Jesus appeared in the sky accompanied with a host of angels and an innumerable company of saints. I was still holding on to the man's hand when I began to feel myself lifted up to meet Christ in the air. I loved the man and did not want to turn loose of his hand but very soon my grip broke as I was lifted away. The man's attention was turned upward, and I saw the disbelief in his eyes as he spoke these words: "No ...but I believe!" He spoke the same words again, but the disbelief was turning to horror. "No ...but I believe!"

As I was lifted higher and higher away from the train, others in the boxcars began to notice what was happening. They all cried out with the same words: "No ...but I believe!" I watched as the train sped down the track until the track and land ended and the train began to tumble into the abyss. Almost in unison, everyone on the train was screaming, "No ...but I believe!"

This dream ended in great horror for those who thought their "believing" would save them. Somehow, faith in Jesus Christ had been substituted for an empty mental assent. There is no doubt that we are saved *"by grace ...through faith"* Ephesians 2:8, and we also *"stand by faith."* Romans 11:20. **"Saving faith,"** however, is always based upon belief of the truth of the gospel. **If just believing "anything" constitutes "faith," then believing a lie would also be faith.** Yet Paul warned of those who received *"...strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had*

pleasure in unrighteousness.” II Thessalonians 2:10-12. A suicide bomber may believe his death will guarantee himself Heaven, but his firm belief is not faith. He is only believing a lie. Believing a lie never brings you into the promises of God.

True “saving faith” brings such a response from God unto the believer that the existence of such faith is evident for all to see. The Apostle John told us *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness (evidence) in himself...”* I John 5:10. The Biblical evidence of “saving faith” is as a city set on a hill. It cannot be hidden. Let’s look at the biblical evidence of “saving faith.”

“God ...bare them witness ...purifying their hearts by faith.” Acts 15:8-9. Saving faith brings a clean heart to the believer. It is the promise of the gospel. God said, *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:”* Ezekiel 36:26. The Apostle told us *“the blood of Christ”* would *“purge your conscience (inner thoughts and feelings) from dead works to serve the living God”* Hebrews 9:14.

“...sanctified by faith that is in me.” Acts 26:18. Jesus went to the cross to *“that he might sanctify the people with his own blood...”* Hebrews 13:12. Through faith in Jesus Christ, sin is washed from our heart and nature by his precious blood. John reminds us that Jesus *“...loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”* Revelation 1:5.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness...” Romans 10:10. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are transformed from one who was born a sinner into one who has been made

righteous by the work of Christ. Paul tells us *“For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”* Romans 5:19.

Paul told us to *“examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith...”* II Corinthians 13:5. If our “faith” has not brought us what the Bible says true “faith” brings, then we should examine whether we are in the faith. Your eternity depends upon it!