FAITH

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FAITH

WHAT IS FAITH?
WHAT IS 'SANCTIFICATION BY FAITH?'
WHAT IS 'JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH?'
ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES?
PERMANENT, PASSING, GENUINE?
IS "WILL" INVOLVED?

THE JUDAS LETTER

• ALLEGES JESUS ASKED JUDAS TO BETRAY HIM TO CONFORM TO SCRIPTURE.

- IMPORTANT?
- NEW?
- SHAKE YOUR FAITH?

THE SCRIPTURE SAYS:

Romans 14:23 (KJB)

 "...faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF FAITH? DO YOU KNOW?

Over the centuries much of the discussion within Soteriology has involved the nature of faith. Although no one leaves faith out of the equation, many teachers and denominations add further requirements to obtain eternal life. If faith is essential, just what does faith mean? Does it include different elements? Do we discover different types of faith in the New Testament, such as "permanent faith," "passing faith," "genuine faith," and "spurious faith"?"

 [Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Jourgal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary]

NEW ANTI-CONVERSION LAW IN ALGERIA MUSLIMS HAVE FAITH

Algeria has passed a new anti-conversion law that would punish anyone who persuades a Muslim to leave his religion with up to five years in prison and a \$12,000 fine. The law, passed on March 21, forbids anyone to "shake the faith of a Muslim" ("Anti-conversion Law," WorldNetDaily, March 30). The legislation provides for imprisonment and expulsion of foreigners who commit the same offense. House churches are also banned. The law says, "Collective exercise of religious worship takes place exclusively in structures intended for this purpose, open to the public and identifiable from the exterior." [FBIS]

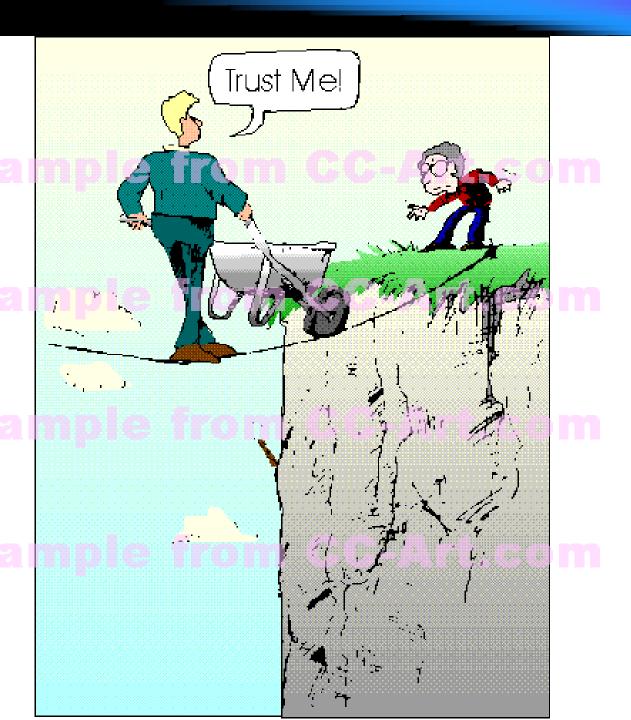


SAVING FAITH IS "BELIEVE IN HIS NAME."

John 1:12—But to as many as received Him, He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe [PISTEUO] in His name."

• PISTEUO = BELIEVE AND TRUST

(The old adage of the man pushing someone across the Grand Canon on a rope in a wheelbarrow. Would you believe and trust that he could and get in the wheelbarrow?)



SAVING FAITH IS "BELIEF IN", SO WHY THIS VERSE?

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in [PISTEUO] His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit [PISTEUO] Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was *in man* (John 2:23–25).

THIS IS A REAL WAKE-UP CALL

Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. 11

FAITH STARTS SMALL AND GROWS

Matthew 17:20 (KJV)

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

FAITH IN WHO OR WHAT?

- Heresy [hairesis = choose other than orthodox] is denying that Christ is the only Saviour.
- [e.g. (exempli gratia = for example) must be a member of <u>this</u> church, this church saves, Mary saves
- Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists are saved because of <u>"their" faith</u>]

SO, WHAT IS SAVING FAITH?

- Solomon revealed that there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Times have not changed! As we enter a third millennium, contrary currents of theological thought continue as they have since Christianity burst on the scene in the first century... "How does man receive eternal life?" In general, there are three answers given. The first is that God saves a man according to his good works. Thus, if in the end one's good works outweigh his bad works, he earns access to heaven. The second answer is that God saves a man according to his faith coupled with good works. He must believe in Jesus Christ (or Buddha, or Allah, etc.) and do good deeds. The third is that God saves a man by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- [Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary]

LUTHER [1483 – 1546] WAS CONCERNED ABOUT FAITH. DID HE UNDERSTAND IT?

 "While doing research in the archives of the John Hay Library at Brown University, Carolyn Lenz discovered a handwritten account of the last moments of Martin Luther."





MANIFEST = REVEAL

"This was the third manuscript describing Luther's last words and actions found in a 16th-century book. Though written by an unpolished scribe, the anonymous account was penned by someone deeply moved by the loss of the Reformer to record either the events he observed personally or heard reported on the day of Luther's death. Having arisen from bed that day Luther told his friend Justus Jonas that he was experiencing great pain and prayed aloud saying, "O heavenly God, you beloved Father of Jesus Christ, you have surely revealed yourself to me."

MANIFEST = REVEAL

- John 14:21 (KJV)
 - "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that **loveth** me: and he that **loveth** me shall be **loved** of my Father, and I will **love** him, and will **manifest** myself to him."
- John 14:22-23 (KJV)
 - Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?
 - Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man <u>love</u> me, he will keep my words: and my Father will <u>love</u> him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

"If a man love me, he will keep my words"

- BY HIDING HIS WORDS IN OUR HEART
- BY GUARDING, PROTECTING, PRESERVING, WATCHING OVER THEM

 Question: Do you love Him? Have you been watching over, protecting, keeping His Words

LUTHER'S STRUGGLE

 What was the PASSAGE in the Bible that God had so graciously revealed to Luther, the peasant-born, university-trained professor of Bible at Wittenberg University?

REASON WHY WE ARE CONTINUING WITH THIS STUDY

Justified by Faith (no works)

 Sanctified by Faith (<u>no works</u>) (POSITION, NOT PRACTICE)

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF FAITH? DO YOU KNOW?

"Over the centuries much of the discussion within Soteriology has involved the nature of faith. Although no one leaves faith out of the equation, many teachers and denominations add further requirements to obtain eternal life. If faith is essential, just what does faith mean?"

THE SCRIPTURE THAT MOVED LUTHER

- Romans 3:28-30
 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.
- Romans 1:17
- For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. [Hab. 2:1-4, faith related to "tables"]

OUR FAITH (NOUN)

Habakkuk 2:2-4 (KJV)

And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but **the just shall live by his faith.**

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, German theologian and professor at Wittenberg, posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the castle church at Wittenberg and thereby ignited the Protestant Reformation

Of the 95 theses, <u>71 were statements on the meaning of justification by faith</u>. These were written by Luther to elucidate the meaning of Romans 3:28, which constitutes its central theme. "We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law."

HIS THEME

- SOLA FIDE
- SOLA CHRISTOS
- SOLA SCRIPTURA

- THE LIE THAT CHANGED THE MODERN WORLD,
 - A REFUTATION OF THE MODERNEST CRY: POLYSCRIPTURAE

FAITH: TWO ASPECTS/DTS

- "Faith to Luther, as it was to Paul, consists of at least two parts: (1) historical or factual faith (knowledge), and (2) trust or personal reliance (thesis 15). In the latter sense it is a gift from God given by the Holy Spirit. Faith, then, is an act of trusting in the mercy God offered to man in Christ."
- IS THIS CORRECT?
- [Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS). 1983; 2002. Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 140.
 Dallas Theological Seminary [BSac 140:560 (Oct 83) p. 326]

IS THIS CORRECT?

- This justifying faith is thus more than merely being convinced that the facts of salvation are true without being personally related to them. It includes this, but what has happened must be appropriated as having happened "for me" and "for mysake." This "for me" is the decisive and essential factor in justifying faith which definitely distinguishes it from everything else which we otherwise call faith and especially from a mere "historical faith."
- [Paul Althaus, The Theology of Martin Luther, trans. Robert C. Schultz (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966). p. 230.Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983; 2002. Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 140. Dallas Theological Seminary]

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DTS CONTINUED: IS THIS CORRECT?

"First, historic faith (elsewhere designated as acquired or infused faith) is a mental (INTELLECTUAL) observation, while true faith is a personalization of the meaning of certain religious facts (theses 17–18)."

[Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983; 2002. Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 140. Dallas Theological Seminary]

DTS SEMINARY CONTINUED: IS THIS ENOUGH?

- "Second, the distinguishing character of historic and true faith is seen in its approach to Christ's death; to some it is an object of curiosity and to others it is the foundation of life (thesis 20)."
- THE CROSS IS THE "CONTAINER" AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER SHED.
- "CONTAINER" OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

[Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983; 2002. Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 140. Dallas Theological Seminary]

FAITH?

- Saving faith,...feels itself participating in the Cross to the highest degree. This faith knows "this concerns me." For this event, to which faith is directed, is not historical in the sense of an event that is closed and lies behind us, but one that is new every day through faith.
- Hence it may be said that in distinction from <u>historical faith</u>, <u>saving faith</u> contains <u>an</u> <u>element of experience</u>."
- Theological Seminary. 1983; 2002. Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 140. Dallas
 Theological Seminary
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FAITH?

Third, historic faith is likened to a lazy, idle man (thesis 21) while true faith generates personal enthusiasm and joy (thesis 22). It is that kind of faith that Paul testified of in Galatians 2:20 and that alone receives the mercy of God ("without law and works") (theses 23–25)

[Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983; 2002. Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 140. Dallas Theological Seminary]

"FAITH" DOES NOT STAND ALONE!! "FAITH IN CHRIST," NOT JUST "FAITH"

- FAITH IN SELF, MAN, IDOLS, MONEY?
- People are either justified by the Law or they are justified through Christ (theses 26–27). True faith, according to Paul and Luther, "looks only and solely to Christ for us, toward his righteousness 'outside of us,' yet it thereby becomes the presence and the power of Christ in us."

 [Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983; 2002. Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 140. Dallas Theological Seminary]

Use of the word, faith, in the Gospels

A good place to begin exploration of faith is in the Gospels. Although the Synoptics (Matthew-Mark-Luke) use the verb believe sparingly, John uses it almost 100 times. Matthew uses it eleven times, Mark ten times, and Luke nine times. Oddly enough, we never find the noun faith in John. Since John wrote his book expressly for evangelistic purposes (John 20:31), the prominent role of faith should tell us something about God's requirement for salvation. One of Lordship Salvation's chief attacks against the Free Grace position claims that it defines faith as mental assent. One writer charges that those who so believe "have been deceived by a corrupted gospel. They have been told that faith alone will save them." (And it does! HDW)

FAITH IS THE SEED OF LOVE Mat. 9:28--

- πιστεύω [pisteuo /pist-yoo-o/] 248 occurrences; AV translates as "believe" 239 times, "commit unto" four times, "commit to (one's) trust" once, "be committed unto" once, "be put in trust with" once, "be commit to one's trust" once, and "believer" once. 1 to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in.
- PISTIS 228X

• Romans 10:17 (KJV) So then <u>faith</u> cometh by hearing, and hearing by <u>the word of God</u>.

BECAUSE IT IS A SIGN THAT POINTS TO THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH

We Must Have Faith in God's Words

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

For the word of God is quick [alive, zao], and powerful [effectual (energhj)], and sharper [keen, by a single blow, tomwteroj] than any twoedged sword [dagger, maxaira, vs. romaia, a great sword, Rev. 19:15] piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

THE SWORD DISCERNS YOUR FAITH

- 1ST BY EXAMINING
 - YOUR HEART (Heb. 4:12)
 - FOR THE THOUGHTS
 - FOR THE INTENT
- 2ND BY EXAMINING
 - YOUR LIFE (CONVERSATION)
 - FOR CONDUCT
 - FOR WORDS

FAITH

Philippians 1:27 (KJV)

Only let your <u>conversation</u> be as it becometh <u>the gospel of Christ</u>: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for <u>the faith of the gospel</u>;

DEPENDS ON THE GENITIVE.

FAITH MUST HAVE AN OBJECT

 1 John 5:4-5 (KJV) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith [pistis]. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth [pisteuo] that Jesus is the Son of God?

Justified by Faith (no works) Sanctified by Faith (no works)

- The first century controversy raged over eternal salvation: Is it received by faith alone in Christ alone, or must good works follow to authenticate one's salvation? The book of Galatians argues forcefully that no works (before, during, or after the moment of faith in Christ) contribute to one's eternal destiny in heaven. The debate rages on—evidenced by quotations from today's cultic leaders and modern Reformed Theologians between whom there is not an eyelash of difference. They both insist on joining good works to faith: some along with and some after the moment of faith in Christ.
- [George Meisinger, "Salvation By Faith Alone: Part 1," CTS Journal 5 (April-June): 2-27. Pages 2–3 dealt with the first century and 3–8 with modern times. Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary]

THE ADDITION MODEL

Faith (A Parked Bicycle)



Plus No Works (Plus No Rider)

$$+$$
 (0 × riders)

Still Equals Faith (Equals a Parked Bicycle)



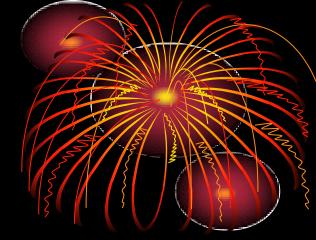


FAITH

When things get tough, always remember...

Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it !!

FAITH



 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

• **Hebrews 11:1**



The Greatest Benefit of Faith

 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Mark 2:5

THE LORD'S DESIRE FOR YOU

- And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. Luke 8:48
- [Peter speaking] And put no difference between us [Jews] and them [Gentiles], purifying their hearts by faith. [Acts 15:9]
- [Both, faith & repent necessary as ONE]
 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the
 Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith
 toward our Lord Jesus Christ. [two words
 for repentance—one sorrow for sins, the
 other, reformation—turning from sins to God
 because of your faith in Christ—He is able
 [Acts 20:21]



Faith establishes the law

Romans 3:31

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Romans 4:5

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Faith Came Before the Law

- And this I say, that the covenant [Abrahamic], that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. [Galatians 3:17]
- And he [Abraham] believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. [Genesis 15:6]

The Seed, Singular, Not Seeds

Genesis 22:17-18 (KJV)

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

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THE FAITH JESUS PRAISED

 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*.

When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Matthew 8:8-10



FAITH IN GENESIS 1-6

- WALKING WITH GOD = WALK AND FOLLOW = Heb. halak = you cannot follow if you do not have faith = trust and believe.
- Genesis 5:22 (KJV) And Enoch <u>walked</u> with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: Genesis 6:9 (KJV)
 - These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.
- (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
 2 Corinthians 5:7



THE FAITH IS THE WORD OF FAITH

Romans 10:5-8 (KJV)

For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*:)

Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

[Jn. 6:51-68] Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

IS THIS CORRECT?

 Augustine said, "Faith is nothing else than to think with assent."

NO, IT MUST HAVE AN OBJECT

 [Augustine, "On the Predestination of the Saints," in The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Church, trans. and ed. Philip Schaff, St. Augustine: Anti-Pelagian Writings (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956), 5:499. Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary]

IS THIS CORRECT?

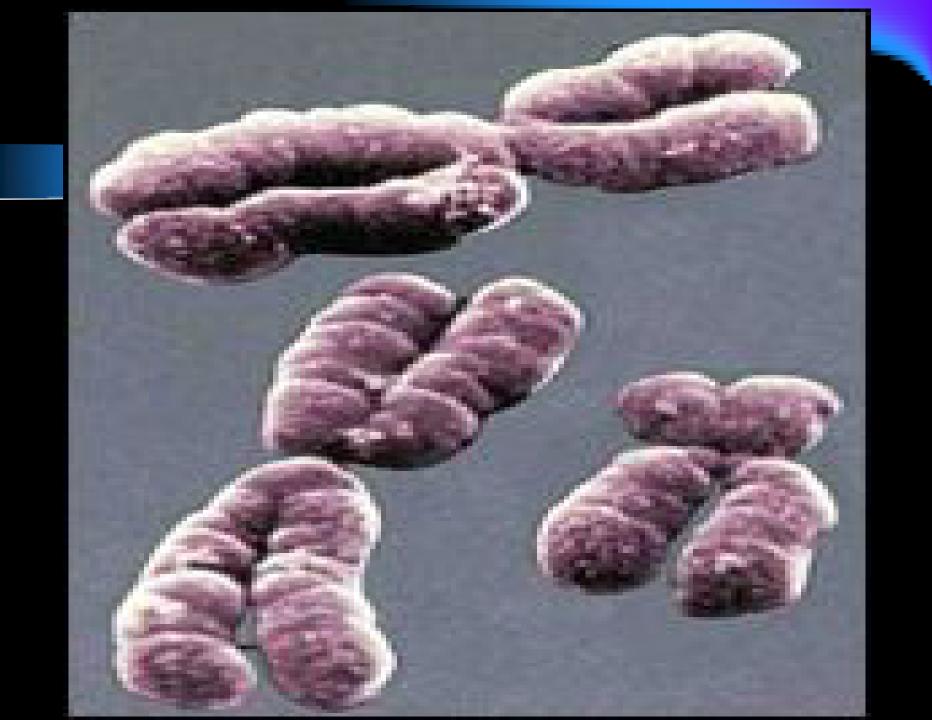
Saving faith is essentially... the reliance of the heart on the promises of God set forth in the gospel... therefore faith is about Jesus Christ.

Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary

A REFORMED SCHOLAR SAYS:

B.B. Warfield, discusses faith extensively in his writings, but never does he link it to obedience. As a matter of fact, he says πιστεύω (believe) plus the dative case (normally translated "to believe in" or simply "to believe" someone or something) "prevailingly expresses believing assent" to Christ [i.e. in your heart to the point that you believe and trust]

Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. *Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5*. Chafer Theological Seminary



FAITH IS WITHOUT WORKS, BUT IT RESULTS IN SERVICE. IS THIS THE SERVICE THAT COMES FROM

IS THIS THE SERVICE THAT COMES FROM SANCTIFICATION?

- "The idea that faith is an active commitment, including obedience, is the view of one strand of church history— English Puritanism—which is of course a powerful strand. One should not confuse that strand, however, with the "true church." Calvin disagreed with it; Lutheran theology has always opposed it; even today some Reformed theologians do not accept it."
- Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. *Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume* 5. Chafer Theological Seminary

Cartwheel Nebula

FAITH DOES INVOLVE KNOWLEDGE!! DOES IT INVOLVE THE SOUL: MIND, WILL, EMOTIONS?

- "The one thing we cannot do ... is to believe something we don't know about." He goes on to quote Romans 10:14–17 where Paul writes, And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? ... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Until the mind perceives a subject, one cannot believe it. Of course this involves the intellect. But is this simply an intellectual exercise? Far from it! "To describe faith that way is to demean it as a trivial, academic exercise, when in fact it is no such thing. What faith really is ... is the inward conviction that what God says to us in the gospel
- [Zane C. Hodges, Absolutely Free! A Biblical Reply to Lordship Salvation (Dallas, TX: Redención Viva, 1989; Grand Rapids: Academie, 1989), 31. Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary]

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:13-17

IF VOLITION (WILL) IS NOT INVOLVED, CAN THEY EXPLAIND THIS: "WHOSOEVER WILL?"

Revelation 22:17 (KJV)

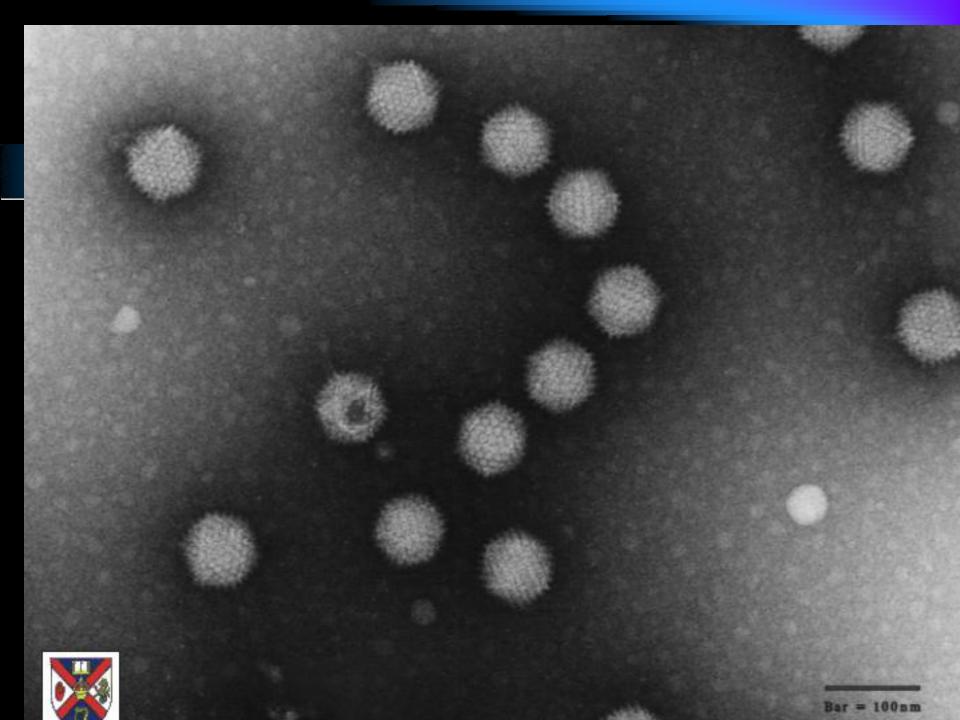
And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The Reformists Say, Will Has Nothing To Do With Faith.

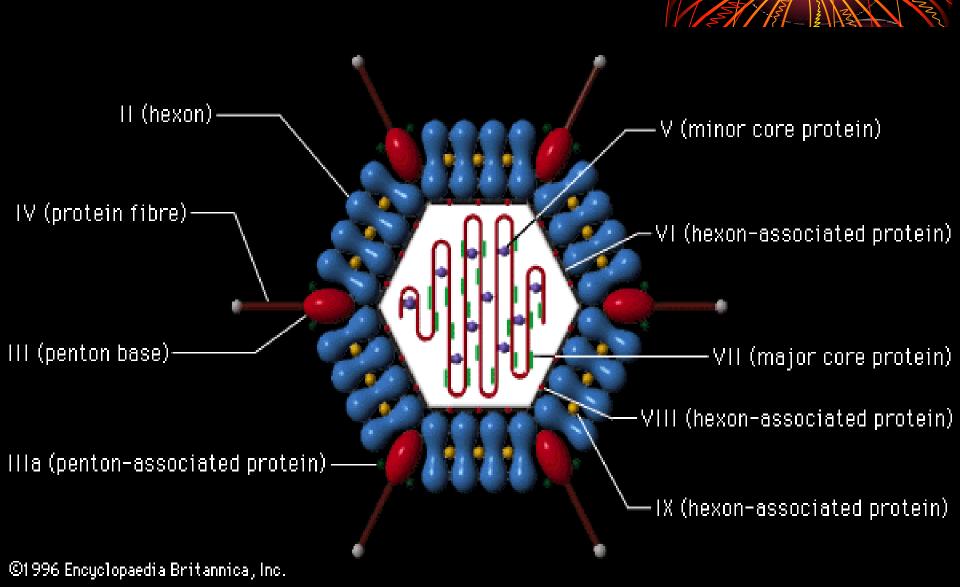
- Listening to the voice of arch-Reformed theologian B.B. Warfield,
 volition (human will) has nothing to do with faith:
- The conception embodied in the terms "belief," "faith," is not that of an arbitrary act of the subject's; it is that of a mental state or an act which is determined by sufficient reasons. That is to say, with respect to belief, it is a mental recognition of what is before the mind, as objectively true and real, and therefore depends upon the evidence that a thing is true and real and is determined by this evidence; it is the response of the mind to this evidence and cannot arise apart from it. It is, therefore, impossible that belief should be the product of a volition; volitions look to the future and represent our desires; beliefs look to the present and represent our findings [emphasis mine].
- Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. *Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5, p. 10.* Chafer Theological Seminary (B.B. Warfield, "Psychological Aspects," 376ff.) 67

GOD'S WORDS SAY "WILL" OR "VOLITION" IS INVOLVED!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2309. qelw = thelo = 201x, apparently strengthened from the alternate form of 138; to determine (as an active option from subjective impulse; whereas 1014 properly denotes rather a passive acquiescence in objective considerations), i.e. choose or prefer (literally or figuratively); by implication, to wish, i.e. be inclined to (sometimes adverbially, gladly); impersonally for the future tense, to be about to; by Hebraism, to delight in:--desire, be disposed (forward), intend, list, love, mean, please, have rather, (be) will (have, -ling, - ling(-ly)). 68



COMPONENTS OF A VIRUS



NO HINT OF OBEDIENCE IN FAITH

- Nowhere does Hodge suggest or even hint that faith means or includes obedience. The Apostle John put it still another way:
- But as many as received [I a mba nw = accept (by a person's will)] Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born (again), not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12–13).
- ONLY GOD CAN CREATE NEW.
- [Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5.
 Chafer Theological Seminary]



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MANY THEOLOGIANS TODAY EXHIBIT DUPLICITY AND CONFUSION.

- But possible, or even inevitable, consequences of faith are not to be equated with faith itself. Faith does NOT mean "to obey." It is NOT "the determination of the will to obey the truth." Faith is "reliant trust." ... to import notions of obedience into the word "faith" is contrary to the teaching of the apostle Paul.
- [cf. Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary, CTSJ 5:4 (September 1999) p. 13]

SIGNS

God gave the signs to persuade people regarding Jesus (cf. Hebrews 2:3–4). Those who advocate Lordship Salvation cannot have their cake and eat it too. They cannot say one on the one hand, that God gave the signs to help people believe in Jesus, while branding the faith resulting from these God-given signs as inadequate. Rather than disparaging faith inspired by seeing His works, Jesus holds those responsible who have seen His works and have not believed:

JESUS SAID:

- "If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe Me. But if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me and I in Him ." (John 10:37–38).
- Jesus performed miracles THAT ONLY GOD COULD DO to convince the people concerning Himself. If they saw the works He did and did not believe in Him, they were without excuse.

AND AGAIN SCRIPTURE SAYS:

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, and believing, you might have life in His name (John 20:30–31).

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast *day*, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all *men*, **John 2:23-24**

 They believed only superficially in order to obtain something for themselves. (see the verb tenses in this verse)

REMEMBER THIS?!

FAITH BRINGS A RELATIONSHIP

OBEDIENCE (out of love, trust, belief)
 BRINGS FELLOWSHIP

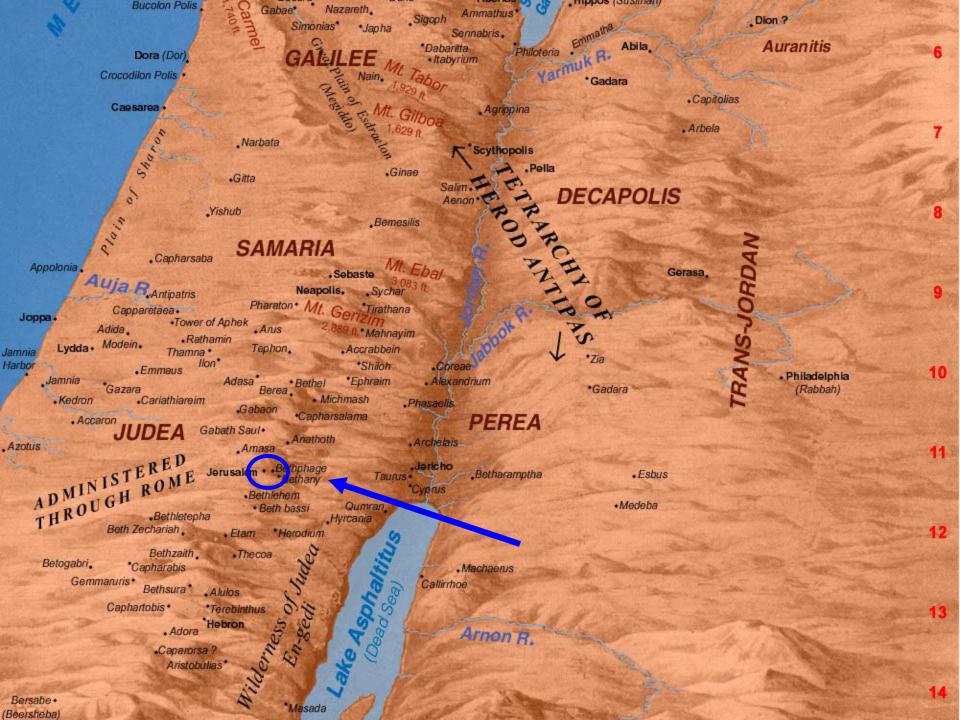
THE **SIGN** OF JONAS

• But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 12:39

THE **SIGN** OF JONAS

 The scene takes place in Bethany [Lk. 10:38], 1 ½ mi. from Jerusalem; Jesus had just healed a blind, dumb, devil possessed man, the Pharisees accused Jesus of cooperating with Beelzebub Jesus, He called them vipers, then they ask for an even greater sign. [Mat. 12:22-45] Luke adds they were trying, tempting Him. [11:53-54]



TYPOLOGY AGAIN

 The outline of John resembles the tabernacle or temple, starting with the outer court (where the Gentiles could enter), the holy place with the candelabra, altar of incense, and table of shewbread, and lastly, the Holy of Holies (where only the high priest could enter).

Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5.
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- Thus, we find Jesus saying things like,
- He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him (John 14:21).
- Notice the conversation does not revolve around "knowing" or "believing," but rather "loving." This is the truth about obedience. If we want to establish an equation for obedience, this is it: obedience = love; obedience & not faith. Moreover, love is the language of intimacy and fellowship. Notice especially the word "manifest" ἐμφανίσω), which the Greek dictionary defines as "to reveal" in this context. It is to those who love Jesus that He is willing to reveal Himself. He will open to them in a love relationship. That is why Jesus was not ready to entrust Himself to the new believers in John 2:23. They believed in Him. Yet, knowing their hearts, Jesus knew they did not vet love Him.

[[]Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 2d ed., rev. and ed. by William F. Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker from Walter Bauer's fifth edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979), s.v. "ἐφανίζω," 257.]

FALLING IN LOVE

- DATING (UNDER PROPER RULES).
- ATTRACTED.
- RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE, WHAT HE OR SHE SAYS IS TRUE, & CONFIRMED BY OTHERS.
- FAITH GROWS IN THE PERSON'S HONESTY, PURITY, GOODNESS, GENTLENESS, COMPASSION, DEPENDABILITY, VIRTUE,...
- GREATER COMMITMENT
- LOVE (Husbands love your wives.....)



- Jesus explains the same truth later in the Upper Room when He says, "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14). He does not call them His children if they do whatever He commands. They are His friends—connoting intimacy. Moreover, to His friends obtains a special privilege:
- No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things I have heard from my Father I have made known to you (John 15:15).
- He reveals more to His friends than to His servants.
 And His friends are those who obey. His children are those who believe.

Secret Service Christians

- John often writes about believers who were not yet the friends of Jesus. Note the contrast between the disciples who openly followed Him and the new believers in John 12:42a.
- "Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue."
- And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7

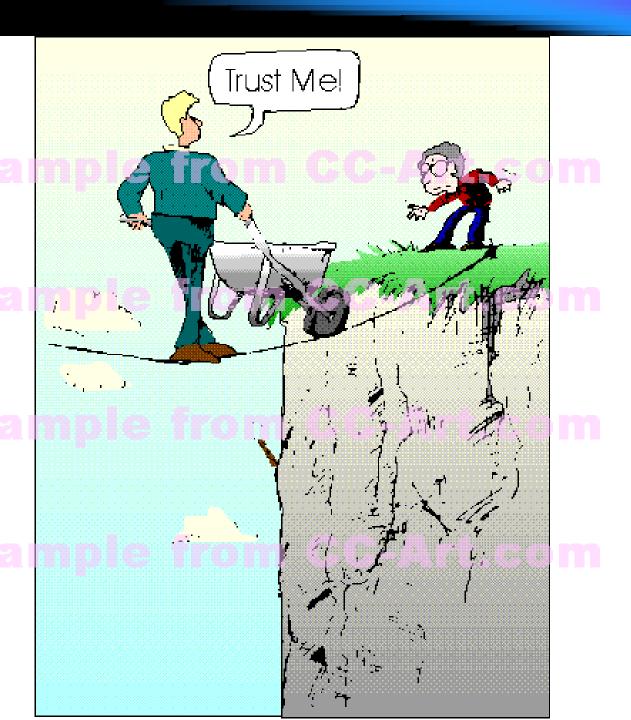
REMEMBER NICODEMUS

There is no contextual indication that these rulers were false professors. Here we have the same Greek expression used by John to indicate a personal relationship with Christ: ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτόν [believed in Him]. These rulers were born-again believers, but because of their fear (not of death, but of losing synagogue privileges), they were unwilling to identify openly with Jesus.

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FAITH, BUT NOT DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

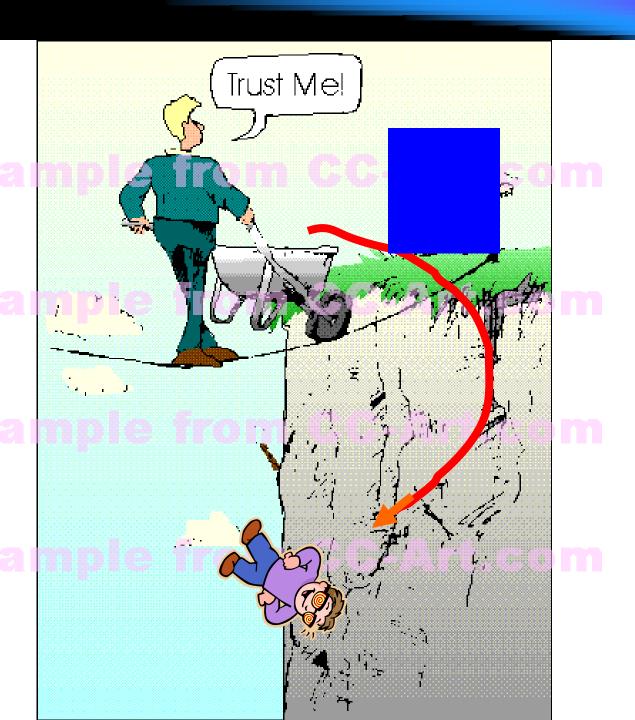
- "No conclusive New Testament evidence supports different categories of faith. Different levels, yes; different categories, no. Faith is faith, real faith, genuine faith, through and through. It is true that not all faith in the New Testament is saving faith. Faith as small as a grain of the mustard seed is enough to move a mountain (because it is real faith), but that is not saving faith. The faith that "makes you whole" is also real faith. The faith of the demons in James 2 is real faith (that is why they trembled), but they did not believe a message ABOUT THE MESSENGER offering eternal life. Saving faith is only that faith tethered to the person and work of Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. Such faith is always saving faith.
- That is, faith can be small like a mustard seed. It can be weak or strong (cp. Romans 4:19–20). However, even faith like a mustard seed (= weak or small) is genuine.

- The notion that in the New Testament believing in Jesus as Savior is not saving faith is simply wrong. The New Testament knows of no sub-level or insufficient faith in Christ as Savior that does not save. Though saving faith begins as an assessment of certain facts about Jesus Christ, it consummates when a person believes that Christ has died for his sins on the cross and has given him the gift of eternal life.
 - Chafer Theological Seminary. 1999; 2002. Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 5. Chafer Theological Seminary



HERE IS LOVE

YOU ARE IN THE WHEELBARROW CROSSING THE NIAGRA. CHRIST IS PUSHING THE WB, HE ASKS YOU IF YOU PISTUEO. YOU SAY YES. HE ASKS, DO YOU LOVE ME. YOU SAY YES, AND HE SAYS ARE YOU SURE 3X (REMEMBER, PETER?) YOU SAY YES. THEN HE SAYS, I HAVE NEED FOR YOU TO BE TURNED OUT OF THE WB, 1/2 THE WAY ACROSS. WILL YOU SAY YES OR NO? YES IS LOVE. ALL OF THE APOSTLES WERE "TURNED OUT OF THE WB." WOULD YOU DIE FOR YOUR WIFE? THAT IS WHAT CHRIST KNOWINGLY DID!



THE THREE ASPECTS OF FAITH

1. KNOWLEDGE

• 2. BELIEVE & TRUST

THIS IS FAITH WHICH LEADS TO SALVATION:

POSITION IN CHRIST STATE IN CHRIST

3. LOVE PRODUCES
 OBEDIENCE TO HIS
 WILL

FAITH AND LOVE PRODUCES SANCTIFICATION

PRACTICE IN CHRIST STANDING IN CHRIST

Can Faith Grow?

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith [pis tij] groweth exceedingly, and the charity [agaph] of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, **nourished up** in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

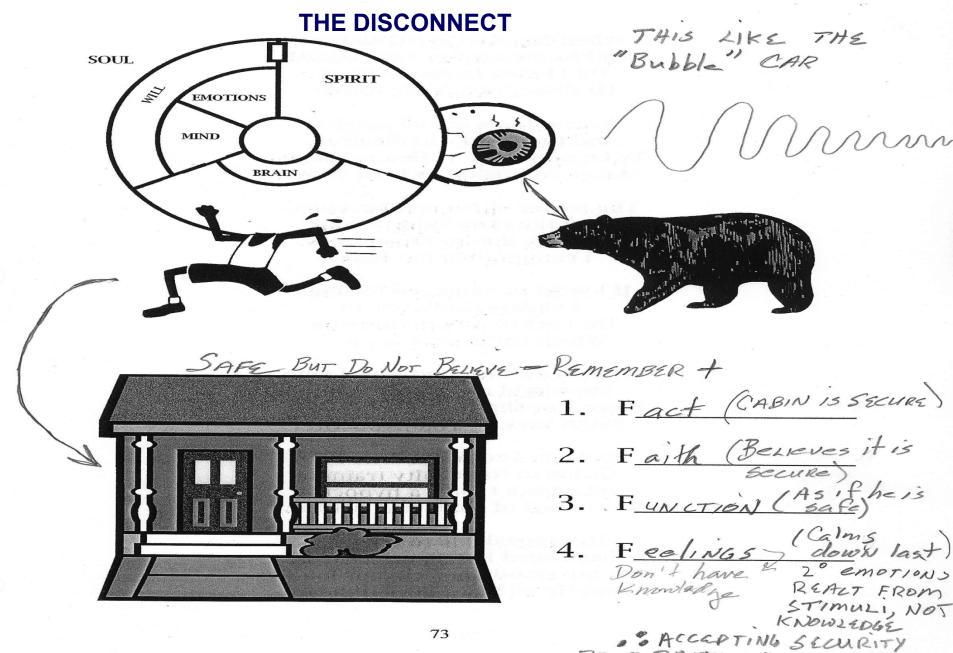
1 Timothy 4:6

YOU ARE SANCTIFIED BY FAITH THROUGH LOVE

- CHRIST'S LOVE FOR YOU AND
- YOUR LOVE FOR CHRIST.
- Romans 8:28 (KJV)
 And we know that all things work together for good to them that <u>love</u> God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
- Romans 8:35 (KJV)
 Who shall separate us from the <u>love</u> of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
 Romans 8:39 (KJV)

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the <u>love</u> of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

FACT, FAITH, AND FEELINGS



FROM FACTS TAKES A WHILE

- GOD LOVES YOU
- WALK IN HIS SPIRIT
- WALK IN HIS WORD
- WALK IN HIS OMNISCIENCE
- WALK IN HIS OMNIPRESENCE
 - WALK IN HIS OMNIPOTENCE
 - "mount up with wings as eagles"

THE TRULY GREAT SIGN

• THE RESURRECTION:

1 COR. 15:1-26 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

1 Corinthians 15:14
THE LAST ENEMY = DEATH (v. 26) Revelation 20:14 (KJV)
And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

(1) FAITH IN CHRIST (THE "BELIEVER'S" OBJECT) (2) SANCTIFICATION FOR HIM (Because you love Him)

- REASON:
 - The Promised Seed. (Gen. 3:15, Mat. 13:19-23, Lk. 8:11, Rom. 9:7-8 (not of Abraham, but of Isaac), Gal. 3:16
- RESULTS:
 - a. Salvation (Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:8-13)
 - b. Sanctification by Death to Self. (Gal. 2:20)
 - c. Sanctification by Death to Bondage to the World. (Gal. 6:14)
 - 1. Dead to the Law (Rom. 7:2, 4, 6, 1 Cor. 7:9, Gal. 2:9*)
 - 2. Dead to Attributes of the World (Gal. 5:17, 1 Tim. 3:1-9, including legalism—Gal. 4:9-31)
 - d. Sanctification in Suffering (Remember Heb. 2:9) (Mat. 13:21, John 16:33, Rom. 8:17-18, 2 Cor. 8:2, Heb. 11, James 1:2, 5:10, 1 Pe. 1:7, 2:9, 4:12

CHRIST IS THE NATURAL (GENETIC SEED) AND THE SPIRITUAL SEED

• ABRAHAM (THE PROMISE)

NATURAL SEED

•SPIRITUAL SEED

The Natural Seed of Abram will Spiritually Bless All the Families of Earth

Ge 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Ge 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Am 3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for **all** your iniquities. **Zec 14:17** And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST DELIVERS US IN THE

- PAST---FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN (SALVATION)
 (PLACE OR POSITION OR STANDING)
- PRESENT---FROM THE <u>POWER</u> OF SIN (SANTIFICATION) (PRACTICE OR STATE)
- FUTURE---FROM THE PRESENCE OF SIN (GLORIFICATION) (PRESENCE WITH HIM)

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST DELIVERS US

 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

2 Corinthians 1:10

- "delivered" = aorist, active, indicative
- "doth deliver" = present, active, indicative
- "will yet deliver" = future, active, indicative

Each Member of the Trinity Participates

- PAST---FROM THE <u>PENALTY</u> OF SIN
- God the Father: Jn 17:6 ...the men which thou gavest me
- God the Son: Heb. 13:12 "...Jesus...that he might scanctify the people..."
- God the Holy Spirit: 1Cor. 6:11 "...ye are sanctified...by the Spirit..."

Each Member of the Trinity Participates

- PRESENT---FROM THE **POWER** OF SIN
- God the Father: Jn 17:17 "...Sanctify them with thy truth: the word is truth.
- God the Son: Eph. 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"
- God the Holy Spirit: 2 Cor. 3:18 "...we all...are changed...by the Spirit."

Each Member of the Trinity Participates

- FUTURE---FROM THE PRESENCE OF SIN
- God the Father: Jn. 17:24 "...I will that they...whom thou hast given me, be with me..."
- God the Son: 1 Jn 3:2 "...when he shall appear, we shall be like him..."
- God the Holy Spirit: Rom 8:11 "...he shall quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit."

RING NEBULA