Sent to Geo. Hunt

Cave Junction, Oregon.
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"IT IS WRITTEN" Matth.4:4.

SALVATION BY FAITH

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begottenson, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". St. Jno.3:16.

"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". St.Jno.3:36.

The above scriptures are clearcut and too the point. Every one who believes the bible must take them at face value.

But what do the expressions, "believeth in him". and "believeth on the son", mean? Does it merely mean to believe, "Christ exists" or that "he is"? Or does it mean to accept every claim he made, every promise given, and every command that he commanded, as the absolute truth?

To believe merely that such a person as Jesus existed, or that, "he is"; is something most every one who has heard the bible story believes; yes, some of our vilest crimnals. Are they saved?

For example, I might say; you believe that Hitler exists (or did); most everyone does. But do you, "believe in", or "on Hitler"? Hardly anyone does, so why?

To believe that Hitler exists, or is; means only that we accept the idea that such a person did exist. But to "believe in," or "believe on" Hitler is to accept his leadership, believe the principles he advocated, and his teachings in general. This very few here in the U.S. believed. Yet we all believed that he was, but did not "believe in" or "believe on", Hitler.

Over in Germany the people accepted and trusted him explisitly; they "believed in", or "believed on", Hitler.

I think this makes the two ideas plain, now for the scriptural proof.

In St.Jno.4:39-42, We have the record of some Samaritans who knew all along that "Jesus was" or that "he existed"; but they did not "believe in" or "believe on" Jesus. You will please note, that in the 39 th. verse, some "believed on" him because of the womans words.

While in the 41 st. and 42 nd. verses we see many "believed" because of his own words; and the 42 nd verse shows explicitly they accepted him as the saviour of the world. To do this they would have to accept all he said as the truth; for a saviour from sins could not be a deciever.

In St.Jno.7:5. it is stated that, "niether did his brethren believe in him". Of course his brethren knew all along that Jesis was, or that he existed, for they grew up with him; but they did not "believe in", or "believe on" him. They did not do as the Samaritans did, believe that he was the Christ the saviour of the world.

This is sufficiant to bring out the point. Now, my friend, do you "believe in or on" Jesus?

If you do you believe every word he said, whether it looks reasonable from a human standpoint or not. When in Mark 16:16 Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved--"; You will believe it because Jesus said it, and you "believe in" Jesus. If you dont believe it, togather with all other statements he made, you dont "believe on him"; for you doubt his word: and to doubt his word is to doubt his divinity. Because faith is a product from the testimony of the bible.

St.Jno.20:30-31, States, these things were written that you might believe.

Rom.10:17; "So faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God".

Acts 15:7; Shows, -Gentiles hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Mark 16:15-16; shows, "Gospel preached", "BELIEVED".

The idea of picking out certain passages and believing them while rejecting others;is not "believing," or "believing on",Jesus.
To condemn some of his sayings is to condemn him as an imposter;for he could not be the Saviour and speak things that were not true.

In Numb.20:8-12.We have the story of Moses at the waters of Meribah. God had told Moses just what to do,but he did differently;and the Lord said unto him,"because thou believed not to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel---".
So,dear friend,when you fail to obey the Lord,or substitute your own way for his;like Moses of old -You believed not to sanctify the Lord in the eyes of the people.
Just merely accepting the record as true is not enough,you must obey the thing believed,or be like Moses at Merabah,believe not to sanctify the Lord in the eyes of the people.While on the other hand if we do [illegible] the things spoken by the Lord,we have believed to sanctify the Lord in the eyes of the people.
No wonder,James 2:17,says,"Even so faith if it hath not works is dead, being alone".
No wonder he says in the 18 th. verse,"Show me thy faith without thy works,and I will show thee my faith by my works".
No your works,your obedience,is the only way you can demonstrate your faith.
No wonder,in the 19 th and 20 th verses he says;"Thou believest there is one God;thou doest well:the devils also believe and tremble".
Just to believe God,or Jesus,"is"is to have no more faith than the devils;Brother will the devils kind of faith save you?
But hear him in the 20 th verse;"But will thou know 9 vain man,that faith without works is dead?Will we be so vain as to try to get by on the the devils faith?

In the 21 st and 22 nd verses he shows Abrahams "--Faith wrought by his works,and by his works was made perfect".When? Let the word answer when; "When he offered Isaac his son upon the alter.
And get this-(23 rd verse),"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God,and it was imputed to him for righteousness:and he was called the friend of God".
Yes, when he obeyed God, his faithx was imputed to him for rightousness.
And so it will be with you;when you obey your faith will be imputed to you for rightousness.
Yes ,faith,is the work of God------------------- -----St.Jno.6:29.
Therec is a work of faith.----------1 Thes 1:3; 2 Thes 1:11.
Which is in faith we must DO.----------1 TIm.1:4.
We FIGHT the fight of FAITH- - - - - - - - - - - - 1 Tim.6:12.
Paul, KEPT the FAITH- - - - - - - - - - - - - - 2 Tim.4:7.
Priests OBEYED the FAITH - -- -- -- -- - - - - Acts 6:7.
They CONTINUED in the FAITH -- - - - Acts 14:22
FAITH is OBEYED --- - - - - -Rom.1:5.
Faith OBEYED -- - - - - - - - - -Rom.16:26.
FAITH WORKS by love - - - - - - - - - Gal.5:6.
With all the scriptures that show we must obey,s coupled together with all the above,showing our FAITH--WORKS,How could there be any doubt?

But says one,,Eph 2:8, says;"Not of works lest any man should boast".
Sure ,this is just as true as any other scripture;but notice what it says.It is readily seen the WORKSmentioned here ,are not the obedience mentioned above; but works where in a man could BOAST.
Turn to Rom.3:27 and read;"Where is boasting then?It is EXCLUDED.By what law,of WORKS?Nay, but by the LAW OF FAITH".(caps mine).
Here two laws are considered,one called the LAW OF WORKS (old law),and in it men could boast,as it was not excluded.The other,the LAWof FAITH, BOASTING was excluded.
Now WHY?

In the law of faith Jesus paid the debt.Eternal life is a gift Rom 6:23.
That life is in the Son,St.Jno.5:26.All we have to do is to go where that life is,in the Son.
If you went to where an inheritance,your father gave you was; you wouldn't think you had earned it,would you?
And so it is here,life is in the Son, and is a gift;all we have to do is to go where God makes the gift.
And I might add,we get there at baptism,Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:27; and its pre-requsites;faith,repentance,and confession.
It is in him,our circumcision is made without hands,in putting off the body of sin,by the circumcission of Christ. Col.2:11.
But with the law of works (old law),it is different.Their circumcission was made with mens hands,and they offered their own sacrafices;and as it is written in the law,and as Paul puts it in Gal.3:12;"The man which doeth them shall live in them".Hence ,we can see with the LAW there was room to BOAST.As Paul puts it in Rom.3:27,BOASTING was not EXCLUDED by the LAW of WORKS(old law)H;but by the LAW of FAITH.

Back under that testament they worked for theirs;while under the LAW of FAITH,life is a gift;we only go and stay where the blessings are in Christ,by obeying the faith;and therec is no room to noast.
So we see God did not tell us to do all of these acts of FAITH,and predicate salvation on them,and then deny it all in Eph.2:8.But was showing salvation was by grace through faith and not of the works of the law.

And let us not for get that Eph.2:8 also says;"And that not of yourselves"---.All these different institutions man has invented,and all the doctrines and commandments they have isttituted,cannot saveyou.
They are "of yourselves", and not of FAITH,as faith comes by hearing the word of God-.Rom.10:17.
For example,if you said you believed that the church was essential to our salvation,and that the sunday school was not;you would start an awful row.
Most want to believe the church for which our Lord gave his life,is not essential;but the sunday school is very nescessary.

The church is of Faith,for you read about it in the bible;but the sunday school and all other institutions of man, are not of faith,for not one word has been said about them from cover to cover..Hence, they are "of yourselves",which Paul says salvation is not of.Eph.2:8.
Paul condemns the righteousness of men in Rom.10:3-6. He shows Israel was ignorant of Gods righteousness (Commandments Ps. 119:172.), and had gone about to establish their own righteousness(commands Ps.119:172);and had not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God.
It is called filthy rags in Isiah 64:6.
Don't be decieved into believing that the doing of God's will is filthy rags righteousness. No, NO, The "filthy rag righteousness",are these institutions,doctrines, and commandments of men.Rom.10:3-6.
Doing the commands in the new testament,are doing the works of FAITH,as shown above

But one might say;Titus 3:5,says; "Not by works of righteousness which we have done---".
Sure, this scripture is true.But what is it,that is not of righteousness which wex have done? Read the verse above it.
"But after that the kindness and love of God our saviour tword man appeared,not by works of righteousness which we had done---".
Sure,God's Kindness and love never appeared tword man because of any works of righteousness which we had done. No sir,but how?Hear him,"but according to his mercy he hath saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost".

You will please notice the expression,"Washing of regeneration",is one of the items mentioned by which salvation is accomplished.
Paul says in 1 Cor.5:17 "—If any man be in Christ,he is a new creature".
A new creature would be one newly born or regenerated. Rom.
We get into Christ,where we become new creatures,by baptism.—.6:3-6; Gal.3:27.
That is a washing ;and it is in regeneration as per Titus 3:5.
Jesus shows water is in regeneration in St.Jno.3:5. Paul calls baptism a washing,and that our sins are washed away at that point.Acts22:16.

But when you are being baptized you are not acting,working; another is doing the work.You are PASSIVE.
"Be baptized",Acts 2:38;and "is baptized",Mark 16:16 are PASSIVE.
Doing the will of the Father puts one into the Kingdom.Matth.7:21.
But, birth of water and Spirit puts one into the Kingdom.St.Jno.3:5.
Hence,being born of water and Spirit and doing the will of thex Father are the same thing.
This Peter shows in 1 Peter 1:22-23, In the 22 nd verse he shows we " "purified our souls in obeying the truth".In the 23 rd verse he shows in this act - purifying- our souls in obeying the truth;we were being born again.For he says:"Being born again not of corruptable seed,but by incorruptable,by the word of God,which liveth and abideth forever".

In Eph.5:26,Paul calls the purifying,spoken of by Peter in 1 Pet.1:22 as being "sanctified and cleansed",and he says it was done ,"with the washing of water by the word".
Baptism is a washing of water.It is by the word,for we find it in the word.
Do you know of anything else that could be called as a washtng of water by the word,in the new testament? Frankly,I dont.
Jas.1:18;"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth".
We are begotten "of" our mothers,"by" our fathers.But here in Jas.1:18. it is stated,we are BEGOTTEN OF HIS OWN WILL. 1 Pet.1:23"—Being born again,not of corruptable seed,but by incorruptable -by the word of God—".Here again it is plainly stated we are born "OF THE WORD OF GOD" Which is his will or testament,covenant.
In Gal.4:21-31; In this allegory the two covenants are likened to Abrahams two women,his wife and the bondwoman. And in the 31 st verse he reaches his climax by saying;"so then,brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman,but of the free".
So again,we can see we are recoined as being born of his word,will or covenant. But according to Jas.1:18 the begetting was "with"the word of truth.
The word,being the Spirit(St.Jno.6:63) enters the heart,,and it being the SEED(Luke 8:11), contains the germ of life and we are begotten.We move in repentance and confession, and are born of his word, will,or covenant,through baptism. The waters of baptism being the element through the birth is effected.For it is a part of the covenant. Matth.28:19-20;Mark 16:15-16;Acts 2:38.
And to this agrees St.Jno.3:5 "born of water and Spirit".Begotten by the the Spirit,"with the word",(which Jesus says is Spirit St.Jno.6:63.) and born in baptism. The water being that part of the covenant through which the birth is affected.

Friend, let every act you do in becomming a christian be an act of FAITH;and to do this you must be able to read those acts in his word. For faith cometh by hearing,and hearing by the word of God". Rom.10:17.
1. Belief is an act of faith;for you hear the word of God say for you to believe. St. Jno.3:16-17; 3:36.
2. Repentance is an act of FAITH;for you hear the word of God say, REPENT.Luke 13:1-5; Acts 17:30.
3. Confession is an ACT of FAITH,for you hear the word of God say CONFESS.MattH.10:32; Rom.10:10.

4.Baptism is a "submission to the faith",for the word of God says;"Be baptized". Matth.28:19-20;Mark 16:15-16;Acts 2:38;Acts 22:16;Gal.3:26-27.

When you do these things and are saved;you aresaved by FAITH:as everyone comes by hearing the word of God.Rom.10:17.
If you could be saved by some other plan you could not read in the bible, it would not be of FAITH;for FAITH comes by hearing the word of God. Rom.10:17. But this is imposible ,for salvation is by grace (favor), through faith". Eph.2:8.
"By faith Abraham,when he was called to go out into a place which he afterwards should receive for an inheritance,obeyed---" Heb.11:8.
And by faith you have been called to go out of the domain of sin,into a place (kingdom of God) which you afterwards should recieve for an inheritance. Have you like Abraham of old, OBEYED ? Has your OBEDIENCE been by faith,like Abrahams?Did some of those things look illogical to you from a human standpoint?If so think of Abraham and Sarah.
They had no child and were past age.Logically it was imposible for them to have a child;but they believed God and OBEYED anyhow,and recieved the promised blessing. We must believe God whether it looks logical or not and obey,and we too will recieve the promised blessings.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise,as in a strange land". Heb.11:9.
By faith you have obeyed and gone out of the domain of sin into the Kingdom of God.Col.1:13.This Kingdom cannot be moved .Heb.12:28.
Is your "sojourn",like Abraham's of old,"by faith"?Heb.11:9;Rom.10:17.
Are you sure in your "sojourn",you can read every act and institution you use in service to God.Remember you must be able to show it in the bible for it to be "by faith". Rom.10:17.
If you can read every act,and institution you use in service to God in the bible;then he is the author of your faith.Heb.12:2.
If you have nothing you cannot read in the bible;thwn he is the finisher of your faith.Heb.12:2.
And then,if we keep the faith as Paul had;a crown of lifex will be for us ,as it was for him. 2 Tim.4:2.
Back to the bible,back to a thus saith the Lord, for every thing we do or say;and then,our salvation will be ,"By grace through faith". It will not be "of ourselves",for we have denounced all man made doctrines,and institutions.
It will not by "of works",wherein a man may BOAST; for it will be by the faith of the gospel and not by the works of the law.See Eph.2:8-10.
May the Lord help us all to get back on as,"it is written",by FAITH Rom.10:17.

J.S.Bedingfield.

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All Churches:Please send in short notice as to where you meet and your preachers if you have any togather with your leaders.
Lets all get aquainted. Lovingly--J.S.B