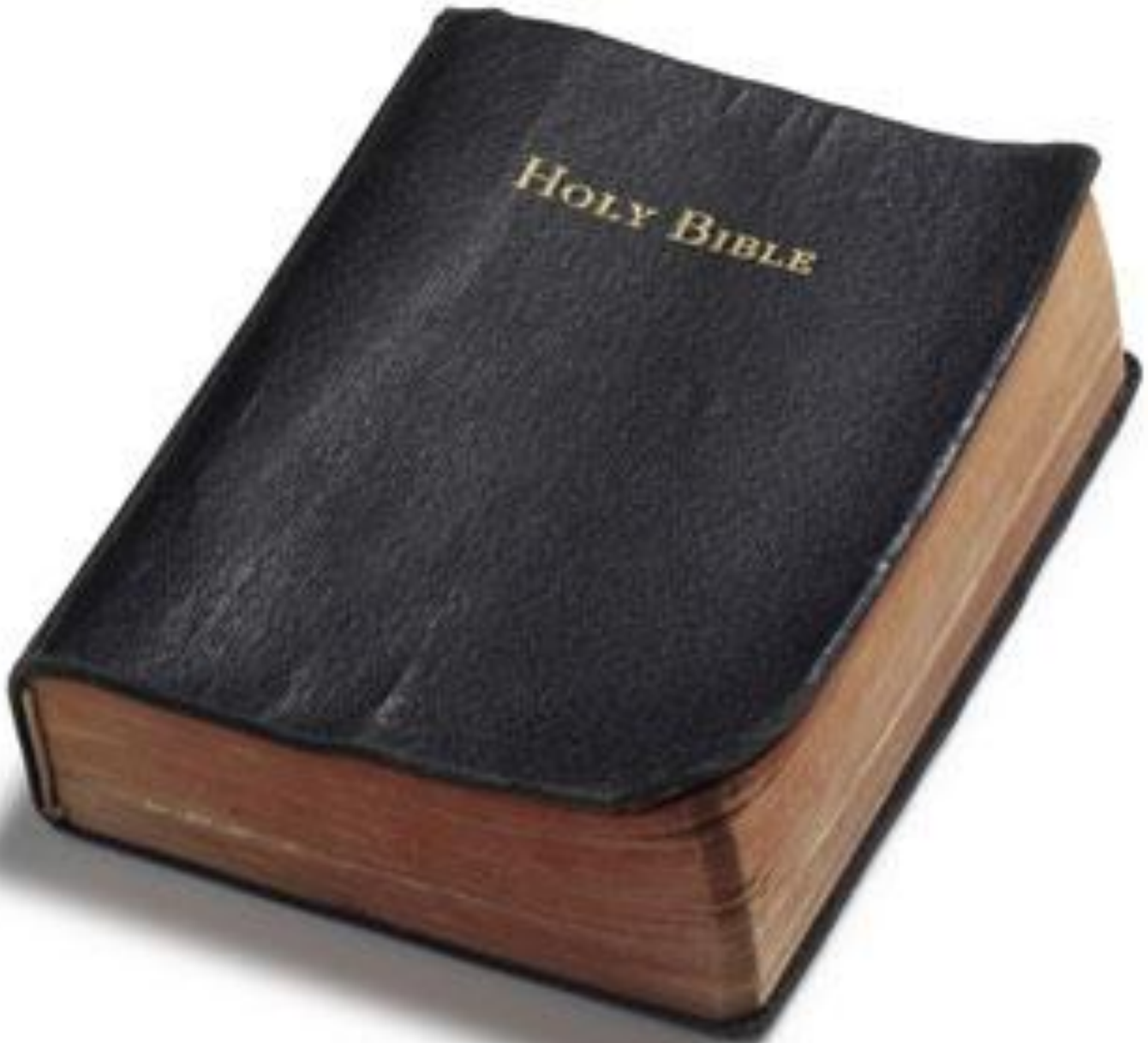


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The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

175



The Source of Faith

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The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

One bad day

By David M. McNabb

"I'm having a bad day!" How many times have you heard that said (or possibly even said it yourself)? True, life throws us curve balls, and sometimes it seems as though our whole world falls apart at once. It is in those difficult times that we should remember Job.

Job had it made. Scripture tells us, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate" (Psa. 127:3-5). That being true, Job, with his seven sons and three daughters, was truly a blessed family man. Not only so, but God's word tells us that, though his children were grown with houses of their own, they all gathered frequently, indicating a familial harmony so rare today.


Job was also a very successful businessman in several industries. In fact, Job 1:3 says, "...this man was the greatest of all the men in the east." With 7,000 sheep, he was a leader in the textile industry; his 3,000 camels were the equivalent of a modern-day, long-haul trucking company; he had a heavy equipment company with a fleet of 500 yoke of oxen; and he was an accomplished dairy farmer with 500 she asses. (What? What was that last one? Donkey milk? Even now, donkey milk is very popular in France and Belgium, and is making its way to the U.S. It was very popular in ancient times. Being close to human breast milk, it is ideal for feeding infants, and is said to be *delicious*. Consider that.)

Above all, he had the favor of God. God's word gives a stellar testimony of him in the first verse: "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."

Well-to-do, living what would have been the equivalent of today's "American dream," Job was happy, and someone who was admired, respected and emulated by all who knew him.

Then, one day, everything changed. A messenger ran to Job, and informed him that Sabeen marauders had attacked, killed the servants and stolen the oxen and the asses, and this one messenger was the only one that had escaped. He was still speaking, when another messenger ran up and told Job that a lightning storm had set the grazing fields on fire and burned up all of the sheep, and all of the servants except for him. The second servant had not even finished *his* tale, before a third ran in to inform Job that three bands of Chaldeans had attacked, stolen the camels, and he was the only servant they had not killed. Finally, this third servant was still relating the events with the Chaldeans, when a fourth servant ran in. His news was the gravest of all. Job's ten children were feasting together, and the house was struck by a tornado. Except for this one servant, there were no survivors.

Job's world, so full of joy and promise that morning, came crashing down that day. Everything he possessed, and all of his progeny, was gone. It says that Job had continually offered burnt offerings for his children. He loved God. He loved his kids. All of his earthly wealth, he no doubt planned to leave to them in abundance for an inheritance. Now, what was he to think? Did he cry out, "Why, Lord? Why did you let this happen? I put my trust in you? WHY?"

Have you ever had a day like Job? Is that how you would react, or how you have reacted in the past? Next month, we will see Job's reaction, and what became of the man that had everything. 

Whatever God Wills

By C. Elden McNabb

On May 20, 1998, I had left my aging parents in Shasta Lake City, CA (two miles from Lake Shasta), and was on my way down Interstate 5 to Sacramento Airport to fly home to Massachusetts. When I was about two thirds of the way, the Holy Spirit of God came upon me mightily, and I began to sing in the Spirit in English. The experience was totally overwhelming.

One of the stanzas of that song went like this:

“The will of the Father, the will of the Son.

The will of the Father and Son.

Whatever He asks, yes all He requires,

Whatever He wills, we will do.”

The song has not received rave reviews so far, but it has not been sung in very many places, either. However, I fear that it would not matter to very many Christians what words were formed, or style of music was used to express the concept which the Spirit of God expressed in this song. It appears that there are not many Christians around who are interested in that kind of commitment. However, God has in reserve a remnant which *will do His pleasure*, and, therefore, qualify to be part of “the election” among the Gentiles. I hope I am hearing many of you saying with a whole heart, “I would, I will!”

And just what is it that God has willed to be done in this end of the age of grace? He surely willed the coming of Jesus to arrange for the remission of our

sins. He also willed the betrayal of Jesus; an absolute necessity to fulfill the prophecies of old, and to effect the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our Redeemer. Jesus was willing to endure all of that to effect the remission of our sins.

Most of us, who have learned much of anything about Jesus (Matt. 11:29), are aware that He fulfilled a multitude of Old Testament prophecies (the will of God revealed) during His time here. However, most of us are not aware of the fact that the people, whom He appointed to carry on His work after He left, followed closely in His footsteps, fulfilling their volume of Old Testament prophecies in the will of God. Hear the bold words of the Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:25. “A dispensation of God **is given to me, for you**, to fulfill the word of God.” Where is that kind of ministry and laity today? Paul’s mission to the Gentiles was not an idea which God initiated in the New Testament era. In Acts 13:47, Paul and Barnabas boldly declared that their mission was the fulfillment of Isaiah 49:5-6, and that the prophecy itself was a commandment to them to carry the gospel to the Gentiles.

Please look with me into chapters 3, 4, and 5 of Paul’s epistle to the Church at Ephesus, in which he names some things which God has willed for you and me to do before Jesus comes to resurrect the dead, and change the living to immortality, and go in to the marriage.

“I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is giv-

en me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, *ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ*) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”

Here, Paul explained how that God had captured him for a special, and wonderful, and difficult work. He explained how he, and the other Apostles and Prophets, had been given the revelation of the mystery of how the Gentiles Christians were, by the will of God, to be “fellow heirs” with the Jews, and to become a part of the same body (the Church). He then showed us how that God had given him the responsibility, and the grace to make it happen.

He went on to say, “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the *fellowship of the mystery*, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according

to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In this passage, Paul declared how that the message which he had been given revealed much more than “the simplicity that is in Christ.” Rather, that message would accomplish the huge task of making all men to understand the *fellowship of the mystery* which God had revealed. Not only so, but that The Church would excel beyond that, and come to the knowledge of “the manifold wisdom of God.” That was, and is, His purpose and His will.

I think that it is interesting, in Romans 9, particularly verse 19, where Paul began one of his extensive efforts (three chapters) to cause us to understand the transition, the transfer of the light of God from those who were natural Israel, unto those who are now Israel by the means of the born-again experience. He showed that the problem with natural Israel was that they had rebelled against God’s will, and God could no longer use them for His eternal purpose, except for that Jewish remnant which will be “espoused” to Christ after “the fullness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom. 11:25).

Paul continued, saying, “I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of *the vocation wherewith ye are called*, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*” The members of the “Church” at Ephesus were more than simply redeemed. They, as the Apostle Paul, were called of God unto a special work which God had willed to be done. Not only were they given


a special work to do, but they needed to accept each other as brethren, and work together in the same mind, serving the Lord in the bond of Peace. That was the will of God then, and it is the will of God for His Church today. God is calling us to unity. God is anxious for us to begin to express His love one to another, and to respect the fact that anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ, and His sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins, is born again. That is a very uncomplicated truth which Isaiah 35:8 describes so well.

Only when we have come to the place where we can manifest that kind of mercy and love toward our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ will we be worthy to be a part of “The Bride, the Lamb’s Wife.” We must come to a place in our walk with God that we have no agenda of our own, but that we give ourselves unto God, that He might use us to establish His will on the earth.

Unto that end “He (God) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For *the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all (Jews and Gentiles) come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God*, unto a perfect man (the Church), unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow

up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

We, “The People of Truth,” have come to Paden, and found that God has an abundance of devout, dedicated people here, whose hearts are so turned toward Him that He can begin to assemble a like-minded group of His saints in this area. With just such a people, He can establish a base upon which the “fullness of the Gentiles” (Romans 11:25) can become a reality. Then we can begin taking the final steps toward the ushering in of the Bridegroom, the King of Kings.

Whatever He wills we will do. 

The Source of Faith

By David M. McNabb

It has been said that “Seeing is believing.” Another common attitude is: “Don’t believe anything you hear, and only half of what you see.” Long before modern computer enhanced imaging, sorcerers, wizards and magicians were proving that your eyes are easily deceived.

In *The Meaning of Faith*, we saw that faith – true faith – is in the faithful God alone, and in His Son Jesus Christ. All other religions, with their false gods and false doctrines, are inherently faithless: empty belief systems with no hope.

What, then, is the source of the faith that is in God through Christ Jesus? Is it sight? Certainly, there are many people who saw the Lord during the course of His brief ministry. In addition to the disciples who followed Him faithfully, multitudes beheld Him, and were healed, fed, and liberated from demonic bondage. Even after His death, we are given eye-witness accounts of many who saw the resurrected Lord; the twelve apostles, Saul of Tarsus, hundreds of other men and women all testified that they saw Him with their own two eyes.

How many times have you heard (or possibly even said), "If only I had lived in the days of Jesus! I know I would have believed on Him. How wonderful would that have been!?" Would you have believed? There were many who did not. Why did some believe, while others rejected Him? The miracles of Jesus were seen by all. Jesus said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). He told His disciples, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. ... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mt 5:14-16). Jesus, our great example, did not merely give instructions to proclaim the LORD and His goodness openly, He lived it. As with Paul, "These things were not done in a corner."

Yet, many did not believe. How is it possible that they would see the great things done by God, through our Lord, and

deny Him? Apparently, seeing does NOT equal believing.

Have some believed *because* they saw? Certainly, but sight is not the source of faith. Thomas gets all of the bad press for his failure to believe prior to seeing the risen Lord. The term "Doubting Thomas" has become a byword. But what of the other apostles? The Scripture says, that when the women returned from the empty tomb and told the apostles what had happened, "their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulcher; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed wondering in himself at that which was come to pass" (Luke 24:10-12). Even when Jesus appeared unto the eleven, "they were affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit" (vss. 36-37). He showed them His nail-scarred hands and feet, and "they yet believed not for joy, and wondered" (vss. 40-41). Finally He ate before them, "and he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. ***Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures***" (Luke 24:44-45).

It was not only Thomas, but all of the followers of Jesus that had trouble believing that day. Even when they saw with their own eyes, they could not believe. What caused them to believe? When did their faith appear? It was at the word of the Lord!

When they heard the words of Jesus, and the Scriptures, then, and only then, was their faith established.

Jesus asked the disciples, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter declared his faith, saying, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16:13-17). Where did Peter and the other believers acquire this faith? Surely they saw many signs and wonders performed before their eyes. Was that enough to sustain them? Was that enough to prove that Jesus was truly Christ?

Peter refers to that which his eyes beheld in 1 Peter 1:16-18. Speaking particularly about the transfiguration of the Lord, Peter said, "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount" (2 Pet. 1:16-18). Peter, James and John saw this wonderful event with their own natural eyes, but Peter did not end there. He went on to say, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and

the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet. 1:19-21).

The written word of God is more sure than any experience, any feeling, any dream, any thought. The word of God is more sure, because those men who penned it did so under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, writing what the Lord said, not what they thought He meant. Because of its infallibility, the Scriptures engender faith in the hearer. As Paul said in Romans 10:17, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Therefore, we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

Many modern translations have gone beyond simply rendering the text into the more contemporary vernacular. They have altered the text, omitting some phrases and completely changing the intended meaning of others. One in particular has the alternate context of various verses at the bottom of nearly every printed page. This effort in fact causes *doubt* rather than faith, because if it could say this, or possibly that, then it is unreliable. The Lord our God is one Lord! He does not change, for He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Paul found no evidence of any discrepancy in the Scriptures. Like its Author, it has not even the *shadow* of turning! He said, “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, 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” (Heb. 4:11-12). There should be no place for unbelief, for the word of God is sure!

All throughout the Scriptures are examples of the faithfulness of Jehovah. When Solomon blessed the congregation of Israel at the dedication of the Temple, he said, “Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant” (1 Kings 8:56).

Thus it is with all Scripture. Jesus said confidently, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matt. 24:35). And again, “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law [the Old Testament], till all be fulfilled” (Matt. 5:18).

In Hebrews 11, we read of the great faith of the people of God throughout history. God inspired the writers to record their faith, that we, too, might have faith in God. As Paul said to the Romans, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).


Paul commended the saints at Colosse, and referred to the moment they received their faith. “We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the

world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth” (Col 1:3-6).

The word of God is the only source of faith. God entrusted His word to the children of Israel, because He knew that they would preserve it faithfully throughout their generations. Even today, the scribes meticulously copy the scrolls, checking and re-checking that every word, every letter, even every jot and tittle are accounted for. This trait was one reason God chose Abraham. “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him” (Gen. 18:19).

The word of the Lord is THE source of faith, and the source of salvation. As James said, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). For this reason, the Lord does not tolerate its alteration. Severe punishment is proclaimed in Rev. 22:18-19, “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Why such dire consequences? It is because God’s word is the unique instrument by which God has chosen to instill faith in the heart of all them that will believe the report of the Lord.

Let us, therefore, hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) being born again by the word of God which liveth and abideth for ever, and having the hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began. Amen. 

Let no man beguile you

By C. Elden McNabb

Satan is very busy making every effort to hinder any and all of humanity from finding the peace of a born-again experience in Christ Jesus. One of the major ways which he uses to accomplish his will is to complicate things.

The Apostle Paul told the Church of God which was at Corinth, "I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so **your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ**" (2 Cor. 11:3).

As Christianity broke loose from the bondage of Roman Catholicism in the 16th century, and began to flourish, there quickly arose various sects/cults. Of course, to be ousted from the Catholic sect, as was Martin Luther, in their eyes was tantamount to you being eternally lost. Accordingly, it was not very long until most Protestants were sure that no Catholics shared in the liberty of the born-again experience. Of course Revelation 18:4 proves that assumption to be false.

As time progressed, more divisions occurred, and those newer groups found same themselves under the condemnation from the groups which they left. Many sects were, and are yet, sure that

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"their way is the only way," and all else is heresy.

Every time that syndrome is manifested, "the simplicity of Christ" is overshadowed by man's willingness to push Christ aside, and usurp the authority of the only One who has any right to judge.


Jesus said, "The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life**" (John 5:19-24).

And of Jesus Christ, John said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For **God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world**; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16-18).

How simple it is to become and remain a Christian, as Isaiah also confirmed. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it

shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Isa 35:8).

Paul wisely admonished us, saying, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."

"*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*" (1 Peter 1:22-23). 

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Walking on Water was never dependant on the laws of nature. With our eyes fixed on Jesus we can do all things. **WHEN HE SAYS GO, WE SHOULD GO.**

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