

## How Do We Get Faith?

For years we have preached on “How Do We Get Faith?” Up until recently everyone was agreed that “faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). But not anymore. There are those today, even some among us, who are contending for a faith that does not come by hearing. They are claiming that faith comes into our hearts through experimentation or from some source other than the Scriptures.

Modernism and liberalism discount the faith that comes from the written Word. It contends for a faith that comes in a roundabout way through social experiences, or religious experiences, or through inner feelings. Many do not believe because the Bible says it; they say they believe because they feel it. So the Scriptures are no longer their standard of authority and source of faith.

Liberalism, modernism, and neo-orthodoxy is based upon a misunderstanding of the Bible. These people have abandoned the Bible as God’s verbally inspired Word of God. They have taken a knife and cut it to shreds. The Bible is the Word of God not simply words about God. It is the verbally inspired Word and we learn about God from God.

True faith comes from hearing the Word of God. John 20:30-31 says, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” Ephesians 1:13, “In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth.” The teaching of the Bible stands like a solid rock above the shifting sands of human experience. The teachings of the Bible are clear cut and indestructible. There is no fuzziness about them as is the case with subjective human feelings. A faith based on the Bible comes from God and not from man.

When one drifts away from faith which comes by hearing the Word of God, he sets out on a restless sea without a compass. He is liable to go anywhere, do anything, or teach anything. Such a person starts talking about his “experiences,” claims to “witness” for the Lord, and says he “feels” the Holy Spirit.

Biblical faith is when a person takes God at His Word. It is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). Without this faith it is impossible to please God and be saved (Heb. 11:6). This faith must be a “living,” “obedient faith” (Jam. 2:24; Heb. 11:8-40). This obedient faith obeys what God has told us to do not what we “felt” should be done.

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 (Mat. 7:21-23).

J. Noel Merideth  
Deceased

## BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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## You Expect Me to Believe That!

In the beginning there was nothing. And suddenly for no reason nothing exploded and created everything. **You expect me to believe that?**

At some point, by chance the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and become life. **You expect me to believe that?**

Somewhere two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place, one was male and one was female. These two new “humans” gave birth to the human race. **You expect me to believe that?**

One of the descendants of these first humans was born with a knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly was making decisions based on a morality for which there is no real explanation. **You expect me to believe that?**

I’m sorry. I do not have that much blind faith. It is **all** just too far fetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I cannot believe intelligent people claim it is “science.”

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). Now that makes sense. I can believe that without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. I can believe! The “theory” of evolution is one of the biggest lies the devil ever invented. If people can believe (have faith in) the theory of evolution, believing about God should be easy.

Author Unknown

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.  
Morning Worship 11.00 am.  
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

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I appreciate so much the opportunity that I had to return to England from October 20 through 31, 2008 in order to participate in the English Lectures held at Huntingdon and to be able to spend time working with brethren in England again.

I arrived in England on the morning of October 21 and spent some time with Joe and Angela Daly in Birmingham. I then drove to the Sisman's house in Upwood, near Ramsey where I picked up Skip Francis and we then made our way to the Moulton's house where we ate supper with Joan and the girls before traveling on to Mildenhall where I taught the mid week Bible study. Following that I went to the Shouey's home on base where I was to stay during my visit.

The remainder of my time in England was kept busy with visiting and encouraging brethren, teaching and preaching except for one day that I spent some time in London with Skip. The other speakers for the Lectureship arrived on Thursday. Friday we all took a trip to Birmingham to spend some time with some brethren there. The congregation at Summer Lane is an old congregation that has been following a liberal path for a number of years but is now seeking to return to the old paths. Ricci Gambino is a local policeman who does much of the preaching and teaching and he, with the encouragement of the Daly's has been leading the effort to turn the congregation around.

Saturday, October 25, was the day of the Lectureship. We were concerned as to how the attendance would be affected as the Summer Lane church had a series of meetings planned for the same weekend, not realizing until too late that it clashed with the Lectures. However, even with some attending that activity the attendance was the biggest so far representing several congregations with one new congregation from the London area being well represented. The theme of the Lectureship this year was Christian Apologetics. The book of Lectures that was printed was dedicated to the memory of Graham Moulton with a special copy being presented to the Moultons at the start of the program along with a cross stitch of the poem written by Tim Smith especially for the Moultons and the Mildenhall congregation that had been read at his funeral that had been made by my daughter in law, Angel, Stephen's wife.

Sunday was spent with the Mildenhall congregation where I taught the Bible Study and preached. The congregation continues to do well but they do miss Graham and his preaching and teaching. Some of the military members have moved on to other assignments but others have arrived having been stationed at either the Mildenhall or Lakenheath bases. It was a pleasure to be with them again and to meet the new folk who are taking an active role in the work.

The second week saw me visiting brethren and teaching classes at Ramsey and Mildenhall. Thursday I drove to Coventry to spend the night with my brother and his wife. My sister and her husband drove to Coventry and we all spent the evening together. I left Friday morning, October 31, early to return home.

It has been agreed that there will be a Lectureship at Birmingham in March when I return with others participating. Such periods of fellowship and study are greatly appreciated by the brethren scattered throughout the country.

Next year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin together with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first printing of the Origin of Species that began the move towards evolutionary teaching. Many events are planned for next year in England to commemorate these events. Thus it was decided that the lectureship next October would deal with matters pertaining to Creation versus Evolution and Atheism. Great Britain and England, in particular has embraced evolution and atheistic and agnostic principles are upheld by many. It is hoped that through the contacts that Keith Sisman has these will be able to be

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**NEWS AND NOTES**

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron's sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Myrtle Grimsley is improving, as of Saturday morning and hopes to be out today.

Our sympathy is expressed to Helen Culpepper in the passing of her cousin. Also, Helen's sister is hospitalized at this time.

There will be a Gospel Meeting at the Hampton Avenue congregation in Aiken November 30 – December 3 with Jimmy Aaron preaching – see bulletin board for further details.

**England Trip continued from page 2.**

publicized in the media.

Below is a picture of an advertisement that is to appear on British buses:



**THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD.  
NOW STOP WORRYING AND ENJOY YOUR LIFE.**

Such shows the militancy of atheism and agnosticism in England. The picture is taken from an article on the web entitled, "All aboard the atheist bus campaign." It has the subtitle, "It's real, it's happening: you can sponsor the first atheist advert on a bus – and Richard Dawkins will match your money." Richard Dawkins is an extremely vocal and popular atheist in England. Thus dealing with such matters as Creation versus Evolution, Atheism and Agnosticism are very needful in the country.

Pray for the Christians in England and the efforts that are to be put forth there for the cause of Christ.

*Ken Chumbley*