

## "THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN"

*Guy F. Hester*

Slowly and gingerly the blind man walked down the street tapping and feeling carefully with his white and red cane until he located the curb on the busy street corner where he stopped and waited until he was aware that someone else was also at the same corner. Carefully he touched the arm of the person who stood by him and asked, "Would you mind if I accompany you across the intersection?" "Why no," replied a woman's voice, "I'd be delighted." He then took her arm and with traffic roaring through the busy intersection they stepped from the curb and walked briskly to the other side. As the blind man was about to thank her, the lady said to him, "Sir you cannot imagine how I, being blind, appreciate your kindness and consideration in helping me across this busy street corner."

These two people very sincerely had faith in each other but they did not have sufficient evidence for that faith. If either of these had known the other was blind, neither of them would have relied upon the other to get them across the street. Many people have the same problem religiously. They sincerely place their trust and confidence in a system of religion which they believe with all their hearts will get them to heaven not knowing that they are following blind leaders. Jesus said, "...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matt. 15:13-14). While it is true that "we walk by faith and not by sight" (II Cor. 5:7), there must be sufficient evidence for the faith that saves. Notice how saving faith is defined by the Hebrew writer, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). The Word of God is the only source of saving faith. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). There is all the evidence in the world that the Bible is true, that it is, as it claims to be, the Word of God. The Bible has withstood the test of time and never has its enemies been able to destroy its credibility nor prove one syllable to be untrue. The Scriptures are the inspired Word of God (II Tim. 3:16-17).

The Bible declares the existence of God and that He is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1). We can have undaunted faith in this because of the abundance of evidence. (continued on next page)

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork" (Psm. 19:1). All about us is the evidence of the Almighty and the creation but there is no evidence anywhere for the false claims of evolution. Although we cannot "see" God, our faith in Him is not "blind faith" because of the indisputable evidence. The very same is true of the Son of God (Jn. 1:1-5,14; 5:32-37; 20:30,31).

Since the Bible is true, based upon solid evidence, we can have faith in whatever it teaches. We can have faith in the virgin birth of Christ (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-23). We can have faith in His death, burial and resurrection (I Cor. 15:1-8). We can have faith in the fact that Christ has built but one church (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18). We can have faith in the power of the Gospel to save all who believe and obey (Rom. 1:16; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8,9). We can have faith in the fact that God will accept only worship that is sincerely offered and authorized by the New Testament (Jn. 4:23-24; Col. 3:17). We can have faith that singing without the use of mechanical instruments of music is acceptable to God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). We can have faith in the observance of the Lord's Supper as a regular part of the worship every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). We can have faith that those who remain faithful will receive "a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10), when Jesus comes.

Many are placing their faith in religious organizations that teach and practice that which is contrary to these things; but to do so is to blindly follow blind leaders which will ultimately fall into a ditch (hell).

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

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## A MACHETE

An African preacher is said to have stated, "When we first heard the Word of God, we thought it was a tree under which we could sit and rest. Now we find it is a machete which we must pick up and go to work". There are far, far too many brethren here in America that still haven't figured that out yet. They seem to think they have arrived, the quest is over, they can sit back and enjoy their life now and salvation in the end. The word of God is a sword (Eph. 10:17), we are soldiers (II Tim. 2:3) and there is a battle to be fought. It's time to get busy!!!