

Saving Faith in a Baby!

Rev. Thomas Parrish

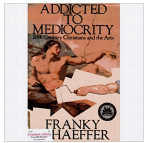
Romans 1:16-17 *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

If you were Satan and your supreme goal was the destruction of Christianity, how would you go about reaching that end?

A direct attack: Mount deliberate persecution. Convince people there is no heaven, no hell!

Indirect attack: Render the message ineffective; convince people that it is irrelevant to modern life.

Franky Schaeffer: In his book: Addicted to Mediocrity--writes that Christianity in America has become merely **ho-hum**. Out of touch with reality, lukewarm.



Advent is Twofold Reality! As we celebrate the first come of Jesus as a baby in the manger. We are reminded of these incredible words in

Philippians 2: 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death

We must also keep in mind the second Advent when Jesus will return to this world as the conquering king and judge.

Revelation 11:15– "Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

How do we keep in balance?

Starts with the call to Faith in Jesus

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BELIEVE WHAT?

- This God became human as a baby named Jesus.
- This same Jesus never sinned and therefore became the ultimate sacrifice for our shame and guilt.
- After suffering on the cross, totally innocent, but taking on all our sin, he bodily rose from the dead three days later never, never, never to die again.
- All who now confess that Jesus is Lord and believe He rose from the dead have eternal life.
- To proclaim him to the world and invite all to receive him and become his life-long disciples.

SOUNDS SIMPLE - DOING IT IS ANOTHER MATTER.

What is sad is the fact that many Christians have made judgments about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Satan, Heaven, Hell, Forgiveness, and Eternal life based on their limited observations or hearsay.

REV. Leslie Weatherhead an English Christian theologian made this famous comment: *The trouble with some of us is that we have been inoculated with small doses of Christianity which keeps from catching the real thing.*



FOCUS ON Real Christianity

The reality of the first Advent centers on:

- God becoming human in Jesus,
- dying for our sins,
- calling us to be his disciples,
- calling us to make disciples
- and to live in anticipation that death has been conquered
- and that Jesus is coming again!

**Here is the best present you could ever receive this Christmas: *Romans 8:1*
*"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"***



Thus the goal of our Christian life is:

- to know the reality of Jesus,
- to stop attempting to manipulate him into doing our will,
- and to come to faith, trust, and obedience in him alone.

This is all part of his first Advent. But the Bible says that there is going to be a SECOND ADVENT.

Revelation 11:15– “Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

Jesus is indeed coming again in what we call his second advent, second coming, the final trumpet.
I must admit that There are days I look at the troubles, rebellion, arrogance, manipulation and unforgiveness of this world and just want to give up!

Our Mission: To engage the world, stand up for the truth of Jesus, face persecution and keep our focus on his final triumph.

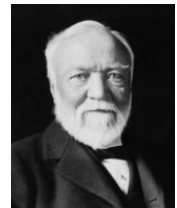
1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

CONSIDER WHAT MAKES UP ETERNAL KINGDOM VALUES.

- KNOWING AND FOLLOWING JESUS DAILY AS YOUR ONLY REAL PRIORITY.
HOW? READING HIS WORD, PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP AND DOING WHAT HE COMMANDS.
- LOVING AND SERVING EVEN THE LOWLY.
- PROCLAIMING JESUS TO A LOST WORLD.
- SHARING OUR WEALTH AND SACRIFICING TIME FOR OTHERS.

Andrew Carnegie (1835 – 1919) *“The man who dies rich, dies disgraced.”*

- SPEAKING THE TRUTH REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OTHERS WANT TO HEAR IT OR NOT WITH AN ATTITUDE OF REDEEMING THE LOST AND BRINGING HIS KINGDOM INTO THIS WORLD.



Conclusion: So as you send out Christmas cards, emails and shop for Christmas presents make two big choices:

Chosen to rejoice that Jesus becoming as baby has given you faith, and power to believe in him.

Now live your life in anticipation of his second coming, use things and time living for him and risking all you have to bring salvation to others.