

*made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."*

A person either believes what God has said about His Son or he makes God a liar. It is important to note that it states, *"He that believeth on the Son"* and not he that merely believeth about the Son. To believe about does not save. There must be a personal believing *"on"*; and that requires some definite and specific promise concerning personal salvation.

Sometimes a seeker will expect the witness or the assurance of salvation before he or she will believe. This is an attempt to reverse God's order. Such a person will say, "I do not feel saved." Ask such a person, "Is your feeling more trustworthy and more reliable than what God has said and promised?" The witness or assurance of salvation comes after a person believes and not before; and belief and faith are always based on the Word and nothing else.

Verse 11 is a marvelous and glorious statement. It states, *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."* Note this is something God has already done; and *"this life is in his Son."*

Verse 12 makes personal salvation so simple and plain that a child at the age of 5 or 6 years

would have no difficulty in accepting personal salvation if patiently and properly instructed. It states, *"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."*

Regardless of what a person may possess in human goodness, merit, and righteousness, if a person does not have the Spirit of Christ, such a person does not have eternal life. For as Paul was inspired to write in *Romans 8:8-9*, *"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

If verse 13 of *I John 5* (after considering verses 9, 10, 11 and 12) does not give the seeker joy and peace in believing, there should be prayerful waiting before the Lord in order that the Holy Spirit might reveal what the hindrance and difficulty might be. Verse 13 states, *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that he have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."* We know we have eternal life because of what is written in God's Word.

*Romans 10:6-11* is also a passage of Scripture that makes

personal salvation clear, plain and simple, showing how a person receives the Christ in personal salvation.

Verses 6 and 7 state, *"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)"*

Paul had apparently been asked by unsaved persons, "How can we receive Christ as our personal Savior when Christ is in heaven and we are on earth?" This is similar to the question Nicodemus asked Christ in *John 3:4* when Christ told him, *"... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (*John 3:3*)

The apostle Paul answers this question in *Romans 10:8*: *"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach."* In other words, Paul teaches the same that Peter, James and John did — that a person receives Christ when he or she receives the Word of God pertaining to personal salvation.

Paul further explains how a person receives personal salvation in verses 9 and 10 of *Romans 10*: *"That if thou shalt confess with*

*thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

Four times in four verses Paul states *"in thy heart," "believe in thine heart,"* and *"with the heart man believeth unto righteousness."* Believe what? Believe the Word, and specifically, what it states relative to personal salvation.

Why the emphasis on the heart? Man knows and believes with the mind rather than with the heart. The word "heart" denotes a personal trust in God's promise relative to personal salvation rather than merely a mental knowledge of the Word, which does not save. Paul was inspired to use the word "heart" to show that there must be a personal receiving and appropriating of specific promises dealing with personal salvation.

In verse 9 Paul wrote, *"if thou shalt confess with thy mouth;"* and in verse 10 Paul states, *"with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Every wise and scriptural Christian worker will encourage the new convert to testify and confess that he or she has received Christ as personal Savior. Twice in this