

THIS I BELIEVE:

Where the Spirit of the Lord is

May 20, 2018

God's Love in Christ Jesus

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This I believe

This I discover

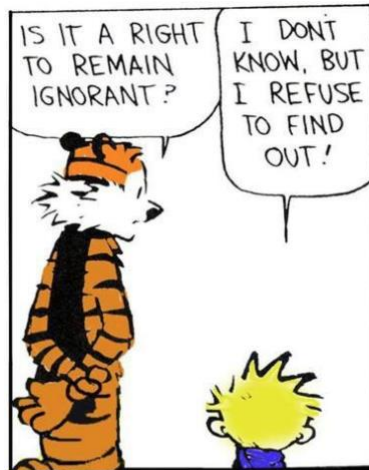
This I dream

This I wonder

This I know

This I believe

Calvin #1



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"THIS I BELIEVE!"

I believe,
You believe

This I believe

This I discover

This I dream

This I wonder

This I know

This I believe

Classic Christian Teaching brings us to a question that each one of us must find along the way.
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

THIS I believe ... I hope that in these seven weeks we will awaken our own beliefs! We can learn from those who have come before us and we can find our own completion of the statement: THIS I BELIEVE:

These weeks will include:

1. the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed
2. We are not alone
3. We Believe in the one God
4. Where the Spirit of the Lord is...
5. Who Shall Separate us
6. This is the Good News
7. There is One God

Let's awaken our faith ... discover the vocabulary and principles of our own faith that permit us to say:
THIS I BELIEVE

Leader:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress,
or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?

People:

No!
In all things we are more than conquerors
through the One who loved us.
We are sure that neither
death nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

BORN OF SCRIPTURE ... OUR AFFIRMATIONS

Romans 8 reinforces how we can work ourselves into a frenzy as we worry about the ways we can become separated from our God! “

*Shall tribulation or distress,
or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?*

Is it possible that we could become separated from God with:

*death OR life,
OR angels, OR principalities,
OR things present, OR things to come,
OR powers, OR height, OR depth,
OR anything else in all creation*

OR might we hear Dorothy, Toto and The Scarecrow, Tin Man
“Lions and tigers and bears, Oh my!”

And then the simplicity of our life circumstances that rise up and bite our souls! The frightening circumstances of life that alter our plans through ... YES: Tribulation / distress / life / death / persecution / famine / nakedness / economic struggles / bill paying / accidents / consequences of stupid things ... OH MY!

HELP us out Calvin ... (Theologian / Philosopher / Prophet)

Calvin #2



But really ... There are moments when we don't understand and we call out with Jesus from the Cross: Mark 15:34

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Just this week again we cried out!
We pause as we remember them:

“Santa Fe, TEXAS: 8 students Aaron Kyle McLeod, Angelique Ramirez, Chris Stone, Jared Conard Black, Kimberly Jessica Vaughan, Shana Fisher, Christian Garcia and Sabika Sheikh were confirmed dead, along with art room teacher's aide Cynthia Tisdale and teacher Ann Perkins.” (Houston, TX Channel 13 News Reported)

OTHER Victims remain Hospitalized

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THIS I BELIEVE!

Often we are the ones who work ourselves into the frenzy and want to be estranged from our GOD... it would certainly be easier if we could separate ourselves from GOD ...

SEPARATION IS OUR DOING:

Just Like Calvin and Hobbes:

Calvin #3



God we don't want anything to do with you... ONLY on our terms do we want to interact with you!
SO ... we pretend we can 'GET AWAY from GOD.'"

Yes... just like Calvin and Hobbes:

Calvin #4



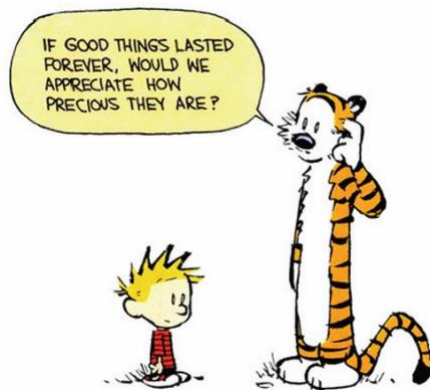
Psalm 139
The Inescapable God

- ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

THIS I BELIEVE!

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Calvin #5



It is critical for us to remember our questions ... critical for us to remember the Apostle Paul's Question and Affirmation:

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress,
or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?*

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THIS WE BELIEVE:

This I believe

This I discover

This I dream

This I wonder

This I know

This I believe

What do you believe?

Standing on the Promises

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 374

Text: R. Kelso Carter, 1849-1926

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)