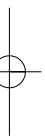


The Unbeliever Convicted

by

**George
Whitefield**



The Unbeliever convicted.

A

SERMON

PREACHED IN THE TOLBOOTH-CHURCH OF *EDINBURGH*; ON *SABBATH*
FORENOON, *JUNE 6TH. 1742. UPON THE CONVICTION OF THE APOSTLE*
THOMAS.

JOHN, Chap., xx. Verse 29.

*Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed:
Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

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PEMBROKE COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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A

SERMON

ON THE CONVICTION OF THE APOSTLE *THOMAS*, PREACHED BY THE
REVEREND MR. *George Whitefield*, IN THE *TOLLBOOTH-CHURCH* OF
EDINBURGH, *JUNE, 6. 1742.*

JOHN XX. 29.

*JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, THOMAS, BECAUSE THOU HAST SEEN ME, THOU
HAST BELIEVED: BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET HAVE
BELIEVED.*

As it was with **CHRIST**, so it is with Christians, they have no Form, they have no Comeliness in them in the Eyes of natural Men, because their Life is hid with Christ in **GOD**, and when Christ, who is their Life, shall appear, then shall they appear with him in Glory: Natural Men have a Vail upon their Hearts; they cannot see the hidden Beauties that are in a Believer's Soul; they look upon them as the meanest of all Men, and many think they do **GOD**

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good Service to curse them. The Doctrine of the Cross cannot be too frequently inculcated upon Christians. Our Saviour hath told us, *We must be hated by all Men for his Name's Sake, but he that endureth to the End shall*

be saved; therefore 'tis the Duty of Ministers, seeing Christians must expect to meet with Contempt for CHRIST, to be put in Mind of the Privileges they have, and the contemned, they are to tell them, how highly they are favoured: For my own Part, I think there is none more noble than they; the nearer they come to GOD, the better they are.

The Words I have read give me a fair Opportunity to speak of the Privileges of Believers, and I hope, from my Heart too. The Words were spoken to *Thomas*, and tho' they were Words of Reproof to him, yet they afford unspeakable Comfort to you that have the like precious Faith, as I insisted on it, in my Discourse in the Morning. If we shall look back to the preceeding Verse, then you cannot but see it; I shall shew you the Import of what our Saviour said, *Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.*

We must look back to the 19th Verse, to see the Beginning of this Conference; *Then the same Day at Evening, being the*

first

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first Day of the Week, when the Doors were shut, where the Disciples were assembled for Fear of the Jews, came Jesus, and stood in the Midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. Our Saviour arose very early in the Morning, he long'd to break through the Bands of Death, he long'd to pay his dear Disciples a Visit; he did not go to his Mother, but he paid a Visit to one that was a common Prostitute; he sends her with the Message that he was risen: But our Saviour could not be long from them, therefore on the same Day at Evening, being the first Day of the Week, when they were mournfully clouded with Unbelief, thinking they would now be taken up as Impostors, *When the Doors were shut,* (No Doors can lock out Christ from the Hearts of his People) *came JESUS, and stood in the Midst, and said unto them, Peace be unto you.* One would have thought he would have upbraided them thus, O ye ungrateful Persons, one of you have denied me with Oaths and Curses, and then all of you have forsaken and fled from me, then I am risen to denounce Terrors against you; I discharge you from being my Disciples any longer. No, his Heart is full of Love to them; and, instead of speaking Terrors to them, as they expected, behold, the Lamb of God says), *Peace be unto you:* When he

spoke

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spoke them, no doubt they were with Power; they felt Power going alongst with them. When he said, *Peace be unto you,* they felt Peace in

their Souls. *And when he had so said, he shewed them his Hands and his Side: Then were the Disciples glad when they saw the Lord:* Unbelief might say, Surely thou wilt be angry with me. If you doubt, whether I have spoke Peace to you, *behold my bleeding Side, by which I purchased Peace to you.* Whenever you think God will be angry with you, then look to the bleeding Wounds of JESUS; then doubt, if you can; he that spoke Peace to you Yesterday, will also speak it this Day; then look to him, and he will make a sweet Repetition of his Pardon unto you: *As my Father hath sent me, even so I send you.* 'Tis said, *Then were the Disciples glad when they saw the LORD;* and none knows how glad these are that see the LORD, but such as have had long Nights of Desertion, to see him shining on their Hearts; many of you, perhaps, 'tis not with you as in Months past, when the Candle of the Lord shined upon your Heads, and when, by his Light, you walked through Darkness. O! that you may be glad this Day, by seeing the LORD! O! that the LORD may manifest himself by his Spirit to

you,

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you, and apply his bleeding Wounds to thy Soul, and say, *Peace be to you!* And we are told, *Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with them when he came.* O take Care of missing an Opportunity of seeing Christ, for he was in Hazard of missing Christ. O when we hear that the Power of GOD hath been with a People, surely, we cannot but wish to have been among them. They said to him, *We have seen the Lord.* O there is nothing like the Lord's People meeting in little Companies together. 'Tis sweet to have a Meeting with Christ, to have some fresh Tokens of his Love. If the Spirit of God be with you, and the Lord bring you together, it will make you talk of your own Experiences whether you will or not: And the Reason why we have got so many silent Christians now, is because the Love of many waxeth cold.

One would think, *Thomas* would have believed, after that the Disciples had told him, *We have seen the Lord;* But, instead thereof, *he said unto them; Except I shall see in his Hands the Print of the Nails, and put my Finger into the Print of the Nails, and thrust my Hand into his Side, I will not believe.* There is a great deal of Imprudence and Infidelity in these Words of his; 'tis as if he had said, You have on-

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ly fancied it, you have not seen him, for *except I shall see in his Hands the Print of the Nails, &c. I will not believe.* Observe how often the Words are repeated that he uses; *Except I shall see in his Hands the Print of the Nails, and put my Finger into the Print of the Nails, and thrust my Hand into his Side, I will not believe.* One would have thought after this that CHRIST would never have paid a Visit to him again; but behold his Love to him, just as a Parent that hath sickly Children, he takes special Care of them besides the others. *After eight Days again his Disciples were within, and Thomas with them: Then came Jesus, the Doors being shut, and stood in the Midst, and said, Peace be unto you.* it seems they met on a particular Day of the Week, the Lord's Day, the first Day of the Week; *Thomas* will now take Care not, to be absent. 'Tis well that when Persons have told us we have seen, the Lord, that then they resolve, they will go with them, that they may behold him also. O the condescending Love of Jesus to come and intimate Peace unto his People! The Devil always raises a Storm, Christ comes to allay the Storm: Christ when he came into the World, he came to give Peace to his People, and when he departed out of it, he dropt Peace to them, as *Elijah* dropt his Man-

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tle among them. He said to *Thomas* (for he knew what had been among them) *Reach hither thy Finger, and behold my Hands; and reach hither thy Hand and thrust it into my Side: And be not faithless, but believing.* I have heard, would Jesus say unto him, of thy Infirmity and thy Unbelief. I will now give thee an ocular Demonstration of it. Do you believe that *Thomas* did it? No; I believe he stood amazed at our Saviour's Condescension, and at his own Infidelity. *He said unto him, My Lord and my God.* My good Lord, my good God, my dear Master, O that thou shouldst thus condescend to deal with me! Thus it is with the Believer, when he gets a Manifestation, he is not proud of it, but it fills him with Humility. O 'tis sweet when we can make Application of his Blood to our own Souls! For to say, he is the GOD of others, and not our own, it gives us but little Comfort. you should never rest until you be assured Christ is your God, as sure as the Sun shines; 'tis the Privilege of the Believer, that he is in Christ. 'Tis the Privilege of the Believer, that Christ is his Friend; he calls you, as it were, to thrust your Hands in his bleeding Side, and wash your Souls in his bleeding, Wounds. *Thomas* stood astonished at

Christ's Love; and no doubt some of you are saying, O that I had been there, among that little

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despised Company! O, that I had but once touched his bloody Wounds! He knew this would be the Language of their Hearts, but he tells them of a greater Privilege in the latter Part of the Verse; *Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: Blessed art they that have not seen, and yet have believed;* so that the latter Part of the Verse affords unspeakable Comfort and Consolation to us, and to our Children, and to as many as the Lord our God shall call. Blessed be God, tho' Christ is in Heaven, yet he is not confined there; tho' he is in Heaven interceding for us, yet he can reveal himself to your Heart's and I hope he shall reveal himself to your Hearts before you go from this Place; he will make you rejoice with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory.

I design, in the further Prosecution of this Subject, to shew the real Blessedness of those that believe in Christ. These that believe, they have been determined by Grace to close with the Son of God, we have been brought out of Conceit with our own Righteousness, and have betaken ourselves to the Righteousness of Christ, that we have laid hold of this for Salvation, that there is an Application of this to our Hearts; if so we have an Interest in him as our own; *Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet*

have

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have believed. And How are they blessed? Why, all their Sins are drowned in the Depths of the Sea of his Blood. Perhaps many of you look back to your Sins, and say, How will God have Mercy on me? This is Unbelief: If you believe, all your past Sins are blotted out; that Moment you believe, Christ hath given you a full Pardon of them; *Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Tho' your Sins be as Scarlet, they shall be as white as Snow; tho' they be red like Crimson, they shall be as Wooll.* Jesus sees no Spot in thee, but looks on thee, as if there were none in thee; if thou believest, thou art as dear to him as thine own Soul; the Lord Jesus Christ frankly and freely forgives thee all: Blessed then are they that believe in Christ, they shall not come into Condemnation; let the Law accuse them for never so much Debt, we must send them to Christ for the Payment of it. Tho' you have been Drunkards and Whoremongers, and tho' you were capable to commit all the Sins that are in the World; yet, if you

believe in Christ, you are delivered from them, they are frankly and freely pardoned. He delivers not only from the Guilt, but from the Dominion of Sin; tho' Sin stir in them, yet 'tis the Privilege of Believers not to reign in them. Faith has an Almighty Power in it, Faith has an all-

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conquering Efficacy in it. Sin is a base Thing, 'tis the Privilege of Believers to trample it under Foot. If Pride or other Sins stir in your Heart, you are to look up to the Son of God to fetch Light and Life from him to the subduing of them. There will still be Malecontents and Stirrings of Corruption in you while here; but blessed are they that believe, for they shall be delivered from them at last. 'Tis the Privilege of Believers to abide in Christ; 'tis the Privilege of Believers to walk under the continued Influence of the Holy Spirit: Blessed are ye that believe, for ye are made one with Christ; Christ and you are nearer than your Flesh and Blood; ye are one with Jesus Christ, even as Jesus Christ and the Father are one. Blessed are ye that believe, for ye are united to Christ, and all the Devils in Hell shall never be able to separate you from him. The Lord Jesus is your Friend, your Father and your Husband; before, ye were Slaves, now ye are made free; now ye are set at Liberty; Now *his Ways are Ways of Pleasantness, and all his Paths are Peace*. Blessed are ye that believe, for go where you will, the Angels attend you; the poorest, the meanest Christian, tho' in tatter'd Rags, open thine Eyes, and you will see the Angels attending you. God takes as much Care of you, as there were but one to take Care

of

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of, and will not let the infernal Spirits touch you, and when you go out and come in, the Lord will preserve you; and when you cannot pray, he prays for you, and puts Words in your Mouth. Blessed are they that believe, for all the Promises of GOD belong to them. A great many are fond of the Things of this World, but ye need not, Believer, be so; for thou hast got enough in this Book in thy Hand, you may pick out all the Promises therein, and call them thine. Blessed, are they that believe, for all the Promises are their own. Blessed are ye that believe, for ye may ask what you will, and it shall be given you; *Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you*. Do you want any Thing? You have the Privilege of going to the King's Court directly, to have Access to the Father, by one Spirit, through Jesus Christ. If ye believe in Christ, ye may come to him at all Times, in all Seasons, and in all

Circumstances; if ye believe in Christ, ye may ask what you will, and it shall be given you. If we could believe, we need not be such Dwarfs in Religion as we are; bur the Reason is, we are so sparing in asking from Christ. 'Tis the Privilege of Believers to talk with God, as a Man doth with his Friend; you may open your Heart, to God; you may say

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(if you know what it is to have Fellowship with him) I will go and tell my Friend all that lies with a heavy Load on me. O if you knew this, it would give you great Ease.

O blessed are they that believe, for the oftner ye come to Christ, ye are the welcomer to come to him; but 'tis otherwise when we come to ask Favours of Men, the oftner we come to them, the fewer Favours we can expect from them; when you get one to Day, it says, you must not come To-morrow: But God takes Pleasure to hear his Children about, him, as a little Child prattling to his Parent; tell thy Case to the Lord, and he will answer thee. *Blessed are they that believe, for all Things shall work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his Purpose.* We are apt to think, what will we do in such Struggle, and in such a Trial? He that takes care of you to Day, will take care of you Tomorrow; *all Things shall work together for your good.* If Relations frown upon you, and if they all forsake you, he will turn it for your good; yea, thy Infirmities he will turn for thy good, as we see here in *Thomas's Case*; and as in *Paul's Persecution*, it made him preach the stronger for Christ. Tho' you may say all Things are against me, GOD hath a

[Link](#)

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Link within a Link in this golden Chain; we can see but little into it, but when you come to Heaven, God will unravel the Mystery that we murmured at in this and the other Thing that God made use of for our Good. A *Peter*, tho' he was to be killed To-morrow, yet he slept quietly all the Night before, between two Soldiers, because he had committed his Soul to Chrif. 'Tis scandalous for a Believer to be afraid of Death, 'tis scandalous to be afraid of the King of Terrors; Christ has passed through Death, that ye may cheerfully follow him; he only died, but we go only to Sleep. 'Tis said by the Apostle *Paul*, *They that sleep in Jesus, God will bring with him.* Believers only go to Sleep as to their Bodies; I'm sure you won't be angry; your Time is short, if God should let you always live here, it would put a Damp upon your Souls in this disordered World.

'Tis the Privilege of Believers to be always ready for dying; if he calls you out of your Shops, as *Martha* said to *Mary*, *The Master is come, and calleth for thee*. 'Tis said, *As soon as she heard that, (he arose quickly and came unto him)*. A Believer when he dies, he falls asleep in Jesus, and comes immediately to Heaven. Let Death bring never such racking Pains, and Terrors with it, let thy Pains be never so great, thy Com-

forts

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forts shall be greater; 'tis but giving a little Struggle, and then thou shalt be happy for ever. O whenever I see a Saint sick, I think I see the Angels, as it were, striving which of them shall step in first to do his Service; Jesus, he says, as it were to them, Make room, my Angels, for them that I have purchased by my Blood; the Sense of this hath made them not fear Suffering; the Sense of this made the Martyr *Stephen* not fear his Sufferings, but it supported him under them. Jesus Christ is represented in Scripture, as sitting on his Throne; but when he was to receive his dear, Martyr, he is represented as leaving his Throne ready to receive him. Your Brethren, before you in Glory, will bid you welcome there. O how will their Joy be full, when they get you to join with them! Jesus Christ he sends you here to School, and when ripe for Heaven, he will send for you Home again, where you will see him, Face to Face, and there God will beam forth his Face upon you for ever, and your Face shall shine for, evermore, When *Moses's* Face did shine, but a little, after his talking with God, how much more will it shine, when talking to Eternity with him? What will you say then, that despise Christ now? How will you be galled, that you were not one of them! And this leads me to

speak

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speak also to you that do not believe, tho' all that I have said speaks Comfort to Believers; yet cursed are ye. Do all the Promises in the Scripture belong to the Believer? Then none of them belongs to you that do not believe. Do all Things work together for the Believer's Good? Then all Things shall work together for thy Hurt that does not believe. Do the good Angels watch over the Bodies of Believers, while here, and attend them at their Death, to bring them to Heaven? Then the evil Angels are continually suggesting evil Thoughts, into you, if you do not believe in Christ before you die; and then you shall have a Company of Infernal Spirits to carry you to hell; your Thoughts, Words and Actions shall be cursed, all you do shall be cursed; so soon as you go out of this Body,

you see God frowning on you for ever in Hell; nay, thy own Relations and Friends will join with God in frowning upon you for ever. If you do not believe in Christ it will say to the World that Christ is a false High Priest. This is a gloomy Scheme; why will you oblige God to pronounce you cursed? And if we that are Ministers, be faithful to our Trust, we must in our Master's Name pronounce you cursed while in that State? But what is the Design of it? If we use rough Words, 'tis that you may

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be alarmed, this Morning; I pray God you may be awakned; look to Christ that ye may believe, tho' you do not believe, yet who knows but, this may be the happy Morning, the happy Moment, when you may be determined by Grace to do so? O may Jesus give you his Spirit! O may the Lamb of God wash you in his Blood! O if you felt what Love there is in the Heart of Christ to your your Souls would be continually panting after God! If Jesus Christ were giving you one Glimpse of his Glory, you would be ravished with the same. Some of you, I believe, have got a Glimpse of it; many do believe, but alas! how few are there that have that Simplicity, that heavenly Mindedness, that Child-like Spirit, of Christ dwelling in them. Do not think it enough you had a Manifestation a Year, or a Week ago; but you must look to him; and continually pray for his Spirit, that he may be flowing in by his Spirit into your Souls. Ye that do not believe, O that the Lord may determine you thereto! If there be any here that are willing to accept of Christ, He will say to you, *Peace be unto you*. O be not faithless, but believing! 'Tis true Christ is not here in Person, but he is here in his Ordinances; O that you may go and tell your Friends that were not here, that Christ was here, and then they will be

glad

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glad: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and so live for evermore. I know ye want to dress yourselves, but do not stay to deck yourselves, come as ye are, naked as ye are, because ye will be bright Jewels of his Grace; altho' you have *Mary Magdalene's* Lusts, ten Thousand Legions of Devils in you, let them not keep you from Christ; away, away to Christ, he is willing to receive you. Some of you may be ready to think he would let you fall: No, no; he would stretch forth his Hands for you, and clasp you about: with his Arms. O that he would come to you in the first Day of the Week! O be not angry with my

Importunity; I feel such Love in my Heart to Christ Night and Day, that I cannot but recommend him unto you, altho' I should speak of him to you from Morning to Night; his Blood! 'tis precious Blood, 'tis atoning Blood; why do you misbelieve in him, to let your Saviour knock and call, *How long, ye simple ones, will ye love Simplicity, and the Scorners delight in their scorning, and Fools hate Knowledge? Turn ye at my Reproof, behold I will pour out my Spirit unto you; I will make, known my Words unto you.* Turn in, turn in, at the Redeemer's Call; Wisdom now cries, and Understanding lifteth up her Voice; sure the Lord intends Mercy for some of your he designs Mercy for some

of

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of you in whatever Corner you are. Tho' I am shooting Arrows at Distance, yet I hope the Lord will direct them unto you. O that he may give you a Sight of his bloody Wounds, and pierced Side, as he condescended to *Thomas*, so as you may be made to say with him, *My Lord, and my God.* I know you will want some secret Corner to give Thanks unto Christ for his Love, I could talk long of Christ, O 'tis a sweet Theme to talk on, I cannot but think God intends great things for *Scotland*, to make, it the Joy of the whole Earth. O that you may have a Taste of Jesus! O that you may have a Taste of his New Wine! And seeing the Lord hath been offering himself to you, then let it make you all in a fire of Love to him. Why do you not come near him? He hath a royal Sceptre, not an Iron Rod for you. Ask what you will, and God will give it you. I hope there will be a Sound of a great Deal of Rain; I hope the Lord is sending Dew to water your Hearts, 'tis the Business of the second *Adam* to dress this Garden; we are here with shut Doors, tho' not with Fear, blessed be God.

May the Lord bless his Word.

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