

Seeing and Believing

Donald Brothie, Chaplain to Seamen, Greenock, spoke of how one day he was witnessing to several men, pressing upon them the necessity of personal faith in Christ, when the mate of one of the ships came forward and said, "How is it that you are always talking to seamen about the Lord Jesus?" The Chaplain replied, "Just because I cannot speak to them of a better friend." The man said, "You tell them to believe in Him. Did you ever see Him?" "No", said the Chaplain, "I never have." Immediately the man came back with, "How in the world can you tell men to trust in, and expect salvation through, one you never saw?"

Kindly, but seriously, Mr. Brothie spoke these words to him, "Well, now, young man, you will soon be going to sea with

this vessel, and you may, before you clear the coast, encounter a gale of east wind, find yourself on a lee shore, with your ship strained, and your sails riven. In such a condition, the weather looking worse, and night coming on, you will naturally think of some place of refuge. And if, on consulting your chart, you find there is such a place within your reach, you will make up your mind, put up your helm, and, when your ship falls off, square away your yards, and make for the refuge. When you come to the place marked in your chart with an anchor, you will clew up your sails, bring your ship's head to the wind, and when she loses headway, you will shout out to the man on the prow, with the stopper in his hand, 'Let go the anchor!' Now, suppose the man were to cry back to you, 'No, sir, I don't see the

ground,' would you not at once conclude that either the man was deranged, or was so green a hand that he ought never to have been on board a ship?" "That would be right, sure enough," said the man.

"Well," continued Mr. Brotchie, "Tell me on what principle you trust your ship and your life to ground you never have seen and never can see?" "Oh," said he, "we go by our chart." "Right," said Mr. Brotchie; and then, holding up his Bible, he said.

"We too go by our chart, and it is an infallible one, but yours is not. This Book tells us of the only sure ground – the atoning work of Christ. He, having died for our offences, and risen again for our justification, is now at the Father's right hand, making intercession for us. Our faith, like your anchor, which penetrates the veil of water, and takes hold of the unseen ground beneath, penetrates the veil between us and the eternal world, and takes hold of our once crucified, but now unseen Lord and Redeemer, and so rides out the storm of life in peace and safety."