

Christ - The Object of Faith



R OSENIUS insisted that even a weak, uncertain, and halting faith is still a justifying faith. This does not mean that God justifies the sinner because of the sinner's faith, in the sense that God finds such merit in faith that faith becomes the ground for reconciliation. God justifies, that is, bestows the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation, only on the ground and because of Christ's atoning work. Faith is thus seen to be the hand that lays hold of that which is offered in Christ; faith is, so to speak, the open door through which Christ with his gift of salvation comes to the penitent and believing sinner. It is at this point that Rosenius warned his hearers against the *danger of having faith in faith*. To have faith in faith, said Rosenius in an article in *Pietisten*, is like a drowning man grasping his left hand with his right hand to keep himself from going under, or like the ship's captain fastening the ship's anchor to the hulk of the sinking ship. Faith must not be directed toward the hand that grasps the gift, or, to change the figure, toward the gate through which Christ comes. Faith must be directed solely and entirely toward Him who has wrought for man his salvation, even Jesus Christ.

From *Four Northern Lights*
By G. Everett Arden