**“Acceptance with God” The Bible Echo 13, 15.**

E. J. Waggoner

Many people hesitate to make a start to serve the Lord, because they fear that God will not accept them; and thousands who have been professed followers of Christ for years are still doubting their acceptance with God. For the benefit of such I write; and I would not bewilder their minds with speculations, but will endeavor to give them the simple assurances of God’s word. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 1}

“Will the Lord receive me?” I reply by another question, Will a man receive that which he has bought? If you go to the shop and make a purchase, will you receive the goods when they are delivered? Of course you will; there is no room for any question about it. The fact that you bought the goods, and paid your money for them, is sufficient proof, not only that you are *willing*, but you are *anxious*, to receive them. If you did not want them, you would not have bought them. Moreover, the more you paid for them, the more anxious you are to receive them. If the price that you paid was great, and you had almost given your life to earn it, then there can be no question but that you will accept the purchase when it is delivered. Your great anxiety is lest there should be some failure to deliver it. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 2}

Now, let us apply this simple, natural illustration to the case of the sinner coming to Christ. In the first place, he has bought us. “What? Know ye not that *your* body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price.” 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 3}

The price that was paid for us was His own blood-His life. Paul said to the elders of Ephesus, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.” Acts 20:28. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation [manner of life] received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:18, 19. He “gave Himself for us.” Titus 2:14. He “gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” Galatians 1:4. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 4}

He bought not a certain class, but the whole world of sinners. “For God so loved *the world*, that He gave His only-begotten Son.” John 3:16. Jesus said, “The bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” John 6:51. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.” “God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:6, 8. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 5}

The price paid was infinite, therefore we know that He very much desired that which He bought. He had His heart set on obtaining it. He could not be satisfied without it. See Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 12:2; Isaiah 53:11. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 6}

“But I am not worthy.” That means that you are not worth the price paid, and therefore you fear to come lest Christ will repudiate the purchase. Now, you might have some fear on that score if the bargain were not sealed, and the price already paid. If He should refuse to accept you, on the ground that you are not worth the price, He would not only lose you, but also the amount paid. Even though the goods for which you have paid are not worth what you gave for them, you yourself would not be so foolish as to throw them away. You would rather get some return for your money than get nothing. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 7}

But, further, you have nothing to do with the question of worth. When Christ was on earth in the interest of the purchase, He “needed not that any should testify of man; for He knew what was in man.” John 2:25. He made the purchase with His eyes open, and He knew the exact value of that which He bought. He is not at all disappointed when you come to Him and He finds that you are worthless. You have not to worry over the question of worth; if He, with His perfect knowledge of the case, was satisfied to make the bargain, you should be the last one to complain. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 8}

For, most wonderful truth of all, he bought you for the very reason that you were not worthy. His practiced eye saw in you great possibilities; and He bought you, not for what you were then or are now worth, but for what He could make of you. He says, “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake.” Isaiah 43:25. We have no righteousness; therefore He bought us, “that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” Says Paul, “For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:9, 10. Here is the whole process:- {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 9}

“We all...were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved), and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace, in His kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:3-10. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 10}

We are to be “to the praise of the glory of His grace.” This we could not be if we were originally worth all He paid for us. There would in that case be no glory to Him in the transaction. He could not in the ages to come show in us the riches of His grace. But when He takes us, worth nothing, and at the last presents us faultless before the throne, it will be to His everlasting glory. And then there will not be any to ascribe worthiness to themselves. Throughout eternity the sanctified hosts will unite in saying to Christ: “Thou art worthy; ...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests.” “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” Revelation 5:9, 10, 12. {BEST April 11, 1898, par. 11}

E. J. WAGGONER.

**“Bond-servants and Freemen” The Bible Echo 13, 16.**

E. J. Waggoner

The power of faith in bringing victory may be shown by many lines of Scripture texts, which are exceedingly practical. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 1}

In the first place, let it be understood that the sinner is a slave. Christ said. “Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.” John 8:34. Paul also says, putting himself in the place of an unrenewed man, “For we know that law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Romans 7:14. A man who is sold is a slave; therefore the man who is sold under sin is the slave of sin. Peter brings to view the same fact, when, speaking of corrupt, false teachers, he says, “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” 2 Peter 2:19. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 2}

The prominent characteristic of the slave is that he cannot do as he pleases, but is bound to perform the will of another, no matter how irksome it may be. Paul thus proves the truth of his saying,—that he, as a carnal man, was the slave of sin: “For that which I do I allow not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.” “Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.” Romans 7:15, 17-19. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 3}

The fact that sin controls proves that a man is a slave; and, although every one that committeth sin is the bond-servant of sin, the slavery becomes unendurable when the sinner has had a glimpse of freedom, and longs for it, yet cannot break the chains which bind him to sin. The impossibility for the unrenewed man to do even the good that he would like to do may be seen from Romans 8:7, 8 and Galatians 5:17. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 4}

How many people have in their own experience proved the truth of these scriptures! How many have resolved, and resolved again; and yet their sincerest resolutions have proved in the face of temptation as weak as water! They had no might, and they did not know what to do; and, unfortunately, their eyes were not upon trod so much as upon themselves and the enemy. Their experience was one of constant struggle against sin, it is true; but of constant defeat as well. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 5}

Call you this a true Christian experience? There are some who imagine that it is. Why, then, did the apostle, in the anguish of his soul, cry out, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Romans 7:24. Is a true Christian experiencing a body of death so terrible that time soul is constrained to cry for deliverance? Nay, verily! {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 6}

Again, who is it that, in answer to this earnest appeal, reveals Himself as a deliverer? Says the apostle, “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” In another place he says of Christ:- {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 7}

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14, 15. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 8}

Again, Christ thus proclaims His own mission:- {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 9}

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me: because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.” Isaiah 61:1. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 10}

What this bondage and captivity are has already been shown. It is the bondage of sin-the slavery of being compelled to sin, even against the will, by the power of inherited and acquired evil propensities and habits. Does Christ deliver from a true Christian experience? No, indeed! Then the bondage of sin, of which the apostle complains in the seventh of Romans, is not the experience of a child of God, but of the servant of sin. It is to deliver men from this captivity that Christ came; not to deliver us, during this life, from warfare and struggles, but from defeat; to enable us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, so that we could give thanks unto the Father “who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son,” through whose blood we have redemption. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 11}

How is this deliverance effected? By the Son of God. Says Christ, “If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 12}

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:31, 32, 36. This freedom comes to every one that believeth; for to them that believe on His name, He gives the “power to become the sons of God.” The freedom from condemnation comes to them who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1); and we put on Christ by faith (Galatians 3:26, 27). It is by faith that Christ dwells in our hearts. {BEST April 18, 1898, par. 13}

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