

"THIS BELONGS TO ME."



“THIS BELONGS TO ME.”

I HAD been preaching the Gospel in a small town. The Word had been carried home to several hearts by the Spirit. There was sore trouble to some, while to others there was deep joy, as He the Spirit of Power had suited the Word according to the need of each ; yet all was the work of the same Spirit, dividing to each severally as He will. While I was busy with one and another, seeking to minister the word of comfort to some, to others a deeper wound where that had only been a scratch by the point of the sword of the Spirit, I noticed a gentleman waiting until his turn came to be spoken with.

When I got to him, he said, “I have been deeply interested in your services, and hope I have gained some good through them. But I have been perplexed in mind about my own state of heart, and from what I have heard to-night I judge that others present are in the same state and condition as myself. But,” he added, “there is one thing I do not understand: you say to each, ‘Believe only in Jesus and you will be saved,’ whereas I seem to have believed all my life long, and I could not say I am saved; I feel assured, if I were to say so, I should add sin to sin.” I replied, “I would not have any one say what they do not experience.” But added, “the experience is the result of *faith* in God or the *want* of it.” Pointing to a man present, I said, “There is a man who has felt the deepest trouble of heart because he has believed what God says about *him* as a sinner. And yet that man has now

the deep joy of knowing all his sins forgiven, and he has peace with God, because he hath believed what God saith about Jesus Christ the Lord."

I held in my hand a tract, the title of which was, *This Belongs to Me*, and, as I held the title page towards him I said, "*This belongs to me.*"

"Yes, I presume it does, as it is in your possession," he replied.

I handed it to him, saying, "Will you have it?" He took it. "Thank you," he said.

"Now," I said, "to whom does that tract belong?"

He looked at the title and read, "*This belongs to me.*"

"Yes," I said, "*it was mine—now it is yours; I gave it—you took it. So with salvation. Salvation belongeth to God: and this salvation is a Person—it is Christ* (Psalm iii. 8; Luke ii. 28, 30; xix. 9; Acts iv. 10-12). And this salvation God gives. 'God so loved

the world that He *gave* His only-begotten Son’ (John iii. 16). And, ‘to as many as received Him, to *them* gave He the power (*right*) to become the sons of God, even to them who believe on His name’ (John i. 12.) Now, have you received Him?”

“I wish to receive Him,” he said; “but I cannot receive Him as I receive this tract.”

“But you can receive His *Word*, and *this* is eternal life (John xvii. 8). Compare John xii. 47-50; John v. 24; vi. 47.”

“Yes, that seems plain enough; but what about my *sins*? what must I do with them?”

“*Nothing!* God and Jesus have had all to do with them. God laid them on Jesus, and *He* bare them in His own body on the tree (1 Peter ii. 24). ‘Who His *ownself*’—not yourself.”

“Yes, that is also very plain.”

6 "THIS BELONGS TO ME."

"Hath put *away sin* by the sacrifice of Himself (Heb. ix. 26). What has He done with it?"

"Put it away."

"Who? God or you? God laid it on Jesus—Jesus put it away by *Himself*. Do you believe God?"

"Yes, most certainly I do believe Him."

"See then Acts xiii. 38, 39, 'Through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him all who believe are justified from all things.'" "All things. What things?"

"I see now as clear as the sun in the sky. Yes, you are right. I see, too, God gives, and I take salvation—*This now belongs to me*. Why, sir, the load is quite gone. I feel as if I could go right into His presence."

"Now, see further what God says about sin. Psalm ciii. 12: 'As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from

us.’ How far is that?” I asked.

He said, “In the morning the sun is 95,000,000 of miles east of us; in the evening the sun is 95,000,000 of miles west of us. But where the east or west begins and ends I do not know, nor does any man, I judge.”

“See another word. Heb. x. 17: ‘And their sins and their iniquities will I remember *no more.*’”

“Now, we have been looking at some words which begin with S—*Sinner, Saviour, Sins, Sufferings, Salvation.* Now look at 1 John iii. ‘Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the *sons* of God.’ Now, if you have received the Son of God, you are become, in the receiving Him, a *son*—you change from *sinner* to *son*—from the expectation of hell to the hope of *heaven.* And God will not disappoint the hope of any of His *sons.* Therefore, let this hope of seeing

8 "THIS BELONGS TO ME."

Him purify you daily from all the evil of the flesh, and the world, and the devil. And there is another S—*Servant*. To serve Him—to follow Jesus in the path which He shall call you into—let it be always a *service of song* when you can. And if it is sometimes a service of *sorrow* or *suffering*, rejoice that you are counted worthy of this service; and remember that each service done to Him will be abundantly rewarded."

DEAR READER! Which belong to you? Salvation or condemnation? Sin or holiness? Christ or Satan? Heaven or hell? Which? Are you a slave of sin and Satan, or a son and servant of God? Which? Do not push away the question from you, but be *honest* with yourself, and *answer* as you will soon have to do.

G. B.

GLASGOW:
THE PUBLISHING OFFICE, 40 SAUCHIEHALL STREET.

Price 1s. per 100, or 8s.9d. per 1000, post or carriage free.

3519078