

BELONGING TO THE LORD (part 2)

Feeling and believing you belong to the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-3, "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israael, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israael, thy Savior: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee."

In our last effort, we concentrated on us belonging to the Lord and how we are His. In this, part 2, I would like to draw your attention to how we, the children of God, are blessed to feel and experience in a temporal context, belong to the Lord.

National Israel of the Old Testament had their faults and failures. Without question, there were many times when they asked in their disobedience, "Is his mercy clean gone for ever?" And you dear child of grace, may have had a similar experience. When you've disobeyed God in sin and felt so far away from the Lord that you struggled believing you were His. Well, because we live in a world that is marred by sin, and we too have the Adamic nature to deal with every day, it happens to the children of God on a regular basis,

The Lord through the mouth of the prophet in Isaiah 43, comforted the children of Israel concerning this subject. The comfort given is a benefit to the troubled children of God even now in the year 2016. The Lord comforts us all by:

(1) Reminding us that He is our Savior! I know many may ask, 'But how can I have knowledge that He is my Savior?' The answer is through examining the evidence of grace in your life. When we consider that life always precedes action, and that we only are able to see the evidence of life(eternal life by grace), it should help us to receive assurance and have our hope strengthened that we are His. Let me ask you, Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God? Do you believe the gospel of Jesus Christ concerning His perfect life and substitutionary death on the Cross of Calvary? Do you love the Church and appreciate the obedient life that they are committed to? Can you look back in your life and remember feeling the guilt of sin and feeling a strong need to repent to the Lord for wrong doings? Do you want to do good for others without being asked and desire nothing in return for the help provided? Brothers and Sisters, these are all evidences of grace and show forth that the Holy Spirit is in your heart. You belong to Him!

(2) Reminding us of His blessings in times past! When the prophet tells them that the Lord "will be with thee", it reminded them of how the Lord had been with them when He brought them out of Egyptian bondage and through the wilderness into the Land of Canaan. When they were motivated to think back, it gave assurance to them that they in fact belonged to the Lord. Can you, dear child of promise, think back in your life of the times that God has blessed you? Maybe it was an event that was pressing on your mind causing an extreme burden, and somehow, some way, the Lord worked it all out so that everything turned out alright. Maybe it was a sickness or even a car accident in which you come to realize that it had to be the Lord that performed the miracle that delivered me from such tribulation. When we think back on those times, it should assure us that we belong to Him. Jesus said of Himself, "I am the good shepherd". Jesus Christ knows His little sheep, gave His life for them and cares for them as no other shepherd cares for his fold. If you can look back and see His care; shout for joy, you belong to Him.

My prayer is that every child of grace would be comforted in his/her experience with the knowledge of belonging to the Lord. And by that knowledge, I pray that you will give praise to Him, who loved you and bought you with His own blood to be His on the Cross of Calvary. Amen!

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