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Devotional Thoughts :: He shall glorify me by O. Winslow

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March 16: Glory In Your Redeemer

Â"He shall glorify me.Â" John 16:14.

One essential and important office of the Spirit is to glorify Christ. And how does He most glorify Christ, but by exalting H is atoning work, giving to it the preeminence, the importance, and the glory it demands; leading the sinner, whom He has first convinced of sin, to accept of Jesus as a willing, an all-sufficient Savior; to cast away all trust in self, all reliance upo n a covenant of works, which is but a covenant of death, and thus going entirely outside of himself, to take up his rest in the blood and righteousness of Immanuel, the God-man Mediator.

Oh, what sweet, holy delight must it be to the Spirit of God when a poor sinner, in all his conscious nothingness, is led to build upon Jesus, the Â"tried stone, the precious corner-stone, the sure foundation!Â"

Let the reader, then, imagine how grieving it must be to the Spirit, when there is any resting in His work in the soul, eithe r for acceptance, or for comfort, or for peace, or for strength, or even for evidence of a state of grace, and not solely and entirely in the atoning work which Jesus has wrought out for the redemption of sinners. The work of the Spirit and the wo rk of Christ, though they form parts of one glorious whole, are yet distinct, and to be distinguished in the economy, of gra ce and in the salvation of a sinner. It is the work of Jesus alone, His perfect obedience to the broken law of God, and His sacrificial death as a satisfaction to divine justice, that forms the ground of a sinnerÂ's acceptance with God- the source of his pardon, justification, and peace.

The work of the Spirit is not to atone, but to reveal the atonement; not to obey, but to make known the obedience; not to pardon and justify, but to bring the convinced, awakened, penitent soul to receive the pardon, and embrace the justificati on already provided in the work of Jesus. Now, if there is any substitution of the SpiritÂ's work for ChristÂ's work- any un due, unauthorized leaning upon the work within, instead of the work outside of the believer, there is a dishonor done to Christ, and a consequent grieving of the Holy Spirit of God.

It cannot be pleasing to the Spirit to find Himself a substitute for Christ; and yet this is the sin which so many are constan tly falling into. If I look to convictions of sin within me, to any motion of the indwelling Spirit, to any part of His work, as th e legitimate source of healing, of comfort, or of evidence, I turn my back upon Christ, I remove my eye from the cross, a nd slight His great atoning work; I make a Christ of the Spirit! I make a Savior of the Holy Spirit! I convert His work into a n atoning work, and draw the evidence and the consolation of my pardon and acceptance from what He has done, and n ot from what Jesus has done!

Oh, is not this, again we ask, dishonoring to Christ, and grieving to the Holy Spirit of God? Do not think that we underval ue the SpiritÀ's work- great and precious is it. Viewed as a Quickener- as an Indweller- as a Sanctifier- as a Sealer- as a Witness- as a Comforter- as the Author of prayer- His person cannot be too ardently loved, nor can His work be too highl y prized; but the love we bear Him, and the honor we give Him, must not be at the expense of the honor and glory and lo ve due to the Lord Jesus Christ, whom it is His office and His delight to glorify.

The crown of redemption must be placed upon the head of Jesus; He alone is worthy to wear it- He alone has a right to wear it. Â"You have redeemed us by Your blood, Â" is the song they sing in glory; and Â"You shall wear the crown, Â" sh ould be the song echoed back from the redeemed on earth.