

CHRISTIAN AT THE CROSS

*The wall
called
Salvation.
Isa. 26. 1.*

Now I saw in my dream, That the highway up which *Christian* was to go, was fenced on either side with a wall, and that wall was called *Salvation*. Up this way therefore did burdened *Christian* run, but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back.

*Christian
comes to
the Cross.*

2. He ran thus till he came at a place somewhat ascending, and upon that place stood a *cross*, and a little below, in the bottom, a sepulcher. So I saw in my dream, that just as *Christian* came up with the *cross*, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do, till it came to the mouth of the sepulcher, where it fell in, and I saw it no more.¹

*His bur-
den falls
away.*

¹ There are *three memorable periods* in a Christian's experience. The *first*, when he is convinced of sin and made willing to flee from the wrath to come, and to seek Jesus by the shining light of the gospel. The *second*, when after having suffered more or less from doubts and fears and legal expedients, he is enabled with some degree of confidence, to claim the promise of the gospel for himself, and to commit his soul to Jesus. This is expressed by his entering the Wicket-gate: he is then justified and excepted in the beloved, but in his own apprehension his burden is not fully removed. This follows, and is the *third*

3. Then was *Christian* glad and lightsome, and said with a merry heart, *He hath given me rest by his sorrow, and life by his death*. Then he stood still a while to look and wonder; for it was very surprising to him, that the sight of the *cross* should thus ease him of his burden. He looked therefore, and looked again, even till the springs that were in his head sent the waters down his cheeks.

*When God
releases us of
our guilt and
burden, we are
as those that
leap for joy.*

Zech. 12. 10.

4. Now, as he stood looking and weeping, behold three Shining Ones came to him and saluted him, with *Peace be to thee*; so the first said to him, *Thy sins be forgiven*; the second striped him of his rags, and clothed him with change of raiment; the third also set a mark on his forehead, and gave him a roll, with a seal upon it, which he bid him look on as he ran, and that he should give it in at the celestial gate: so they went their way.²

Mark. 2. 5.

Zech. 3. 4.

Eph. 1. 13.

remarkable season, when by a fuller manifestation of the person, work, and love of Christ, crucified, his burden falls off, as here represented, and his sins are buried in the Redeemer's grave.

² Here are *three distinguishing blessings* specified, and which are the fruits of faith, viz. The *forgiveness of sins* by the death of Christ, the *acceptance* of our persons through his obedience, and the *Holy Spirit*

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Then *Christian* gave three leaps for joy, and went on singing:

A Christian can sing, though alone, when God doth give him the joy of his heart.

*Thus far did I come
laden with my sin;
Nor could ought ease
the grief that I was in,
Till I came hither:
what a place is this!
Must here be the
beginning of my bliss?
Must here the burden
fall from off my back?
Must here the strings that
bound it to me crack?
Blessed cross! blessed sepulcher!
blessed rather be
The Man that there was
put to shame for me! ✠*

NOTES:

as a comforter signified, by the mark on his forehead, and the roll with a seal upon it. Reader, if you have got thus far, in your happy experience, let it be your constant care to keep up your evidence, by walking agreeably to the mind of the Spirit; you are now sealed. Pray that God may seal you his forever: if you have not got thus far, but are yet mourning for sin, and groaning for deliverance, let me intreat you to go on in the use of means, and not to stop short of a sensible deliverance from guilt, of an heartfelt appropriation of Jesus, for your Lord and Savior.
