

JESUS, THE TAKER-AWAY OF SIN

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You can never make an atonement for your past sins, nor by personal obedience procure a title to the inheritance of glory; but “this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” He is ready to give you his own title to the glorious kingdom, if you will only consent to intrust him alone with your salvation.

That I may make the method of a sinner’s salvation so “plain that he that readeth it” may have his mind’s eye so full of its meaning that “he may run” at once to Jesus Christ, as his divine sin-bearer, I will present the following homely illustration:

While standing one day on the platform of Aberdeen Station of the North-Eastern Railway, I observed a carriage with a board on it intimating that it ran all the way from Aberdeen to London. The doors of it were open, the porters were putting passengers’ luggage on the top of it, and a few individuals were entering, or about to enter its different compartments. They looked for this particular carriage as soon as they had passed through the ticket-office, and on seeing ‘London’ on it, they threw in their traveling rugs, entered, and, seating themselves, prepared for the journey.

Having furnished themselves with tickets and railway guides, . . . they felt the utmost confidence. I did not observe any one of them coming out of the carriage, and running about in a state of excitement, calling to those around them, “Am I right? Am I right?”

Nor did I see anyone refusing to enter because the carriage provided for only a limited number to proceed by that train. There might be 80,000 inhabitants in and around the city; but still there was

not one who talked of it as absurd to provide for accommodation for only about twenty persons, for practically, it was found to be perfectly sufficient. Trains leave the city several times a day, and it is found that one carriage for London in the train is quite sufficient for the number of passengers; and on the particular day to which I now refer, I noticed, that so ample was the accommodation, that one of the passengers had a whole compartment to himself. The carriage is for the whole city and neighborhood, but carries only such of the inhabitants as come and seat themselves in it every day.

God, in his infinite wisdom, has made provision of a similar kind for our lost world. He has provided a train of grace to carry as many of its inhabitants to heaven, the great metropolis of the universe, as are willing to avail themselves of the gracious provision.

When we call you by the preaching of the gospel, the meaning is, that all who will may come, and through justification by faith alone, seat themselves in a carriage marked, “From Guilt to Glory.” Whenever you hear the free and general offer of salvation, you need not stand revolving the question in your mind, “Is it for me?” For just as the railway company carries all who comply with their printed regulations, irrespective of moral character, so if you come to the station of grace at the advertised time, which is “now,” you will find the train of salvation ready. And the only regulation to be complied with by you, in order to your being carried by it, is that you consent to let the Lord Jesus Christ charge himself with paying for your seat—which cannot surely be anything but an easy and desirable arrangement, seeing you have no means of paying for yourself.

Were you coming to the railway station with no money in your pocket, and anxious to travel by a train about to start, in order to be put in possession of a valuable inheritance left to you by a friend; and were anyone to meet you at the door of the ticket office and say, “I have paid your fare for you,” you would not feel anything but the utmost satisfaction in complying with such a regulation. And is it not an easy matter for you, on coming to the station of mercy, to submit to the grace of God in the gospel; that Jesus pay your fare for the train of grace; that you may take your seat with confidence; and be carried along the new and living way to everlasting glory?