

*Ques.* A brother writes saying, "I find so few who can or will receive the truth, or what seems such to me, that I am left to do my thinking and studying almost alone. Orthodoxy, so called, has leveled its guns at me, and in the church where I was honored and looked after my name has been cast out. But there is something of more importance to me than this. It is the question, Is my experience as an outcast in this present evil world fitting me for the Master's service? I can bear this, if sure that I will not be rejected also by the Master in the gathering of his jewels. Fears sometimes arise within me that I have caught at the shadow and missed the substance, and that would be loss indeed. Help me, if you can, to an answer to this question in harmony with Scripture. Another question, Think you that the *world* can see the beauties set forth in the Scriptures?"

*Ans.* Unquestionably the world will in the coming age see much beauty in Scripture; for much of it is devoted to natural or earthly things, and it abounds in glorious earthly promises; and even now some who are not *consecrated* see much beauty in God's grand and benevolent plans. So, then, the fact that you see in God's character and plan that which is grand and good is not a sufficient evidence that you will be among his jewels. Not all who *believe* in him and pray to him--"Not every one that saith, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the *kingdom* of heaven, but he that *doeth the will* of my Father which is in heaven." ([Matt. 7:21.](#)) God's will for this Gospel age is to select such as believe his promises for the future so fully that they will give up the present in *sacrifice* to obtain it.

The fact that you have already sacrificed one of your dearest treasures--"a good name"--for the sake of your love of the Lord and of his word marks you as having become a partaker of the Master's spirit; for no man will sacrifice for such things without assistance from on high. Peter said, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye, for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you....But let none of you suffer as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian [for his adherence to the doctrines of Christ] let him glorify God on this behalf." ([1 Peter 4:12-16.](#))

We hope that the Spirit of God may thus rest upon you to such an extent as to cause you to suffer the loss of *many other* things once counted *precious*, when you looked at the things that are seen. Remember when the Lord marked out Paul for special favor and special service how he said of him, "I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." ([Acts 9:16.](#)) May the Lord also show both you and I and all that are in Christ Jesus daily how much *more* it is our privilege to suffer for his sake!

If, dear brother, you desire evidences of your acceptableness with God, they are found in what he permits you to suffer for his and for his truth's sake. Increase the sacrifice daily, and you increase the proof daily that you *are* his; and such as *are his* he gathers.

If you are suffering with him, and like him for the truth's sake, you have many exceeding great and precious promises. Some of these read as follows:

"Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you FALSELY FOR MY SAKE. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." ([Matt. 5:11,12.](#))

"It is a faithful saying, For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him. If we suffer we shall also reign with him." ([2 Tim. 2:11,12.](#)) "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God," and "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" [*i.e.*, our willingness to suffer with Christ proves our harmony with the Spirit of God, thus proving that we are the children of God.] "And if children, then heirs--heirs of God and

joint-heirs with Christ, *if so be* that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For...the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." ([Rom. 8:14, 16, 17, 18.](#))

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (v. 28.) "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (vs. 35-39.) "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers. And who is he that will harm you if ye be followers of that which is good? But if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye, and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled. [1 Pet. 3:12-14.](#)

For all the tempted and tried ones-- the faithful followers of our Lord--our Father's Word is full of cheering and helpful promises, which we should often call to mind for needed strengthening and encouragement.