

***"I am thine; save me;  
for I have sought thy precepts."***

Psalm 119:94

What a high and honourable character is stamped upon the meanest believer! He is the Saviour's unalienable property (1 Cor. iii. 23), his portion (Deut. xxxii. 9), the "workmanship" (Eph. ii. 10) of his hand, the purchase of his blood (Ps. lxxiv. 2. Acts, xx. 28. 1 Cor. vi. 19, 20), the triumph of his conquering love. (Isa. liii. 10-12. Luke, xi. 21, 22.) He is given to him by his Father (John, vi. 37; x. 29; xvii. 6-11)--"preserved in him, and called." (Jude, 1.) The evidence of his character is found in *seeking the Lord's precepts*. "Whom we serve" will prove "whose we are." (Acts, xxvii. 23.) "His servants ye are, to whom ye obey." (Rom. vi. 16.) "Know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself." (Ps. iv. 3.) "The carnal mind is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh" cannot *seek the Lord's precepts*. (Rom. viii. 7, 8.) A new and spiritual bias, therefore, is the visible stamp and seal of the Lord's interest in us.

True it is, that our Divine Saviour can never be robbed of his property--that his people are saved in him, beyond the reach of earth and hell to touch them. Yet are they dependent still--always sinners--every day's provocation making them more sinners than before; needing, therefore, from day to day, fresh power, fresh keeping, and, above all, fresh cleansing and acceptance. But what a powerful plea for mercy may we draw from the Lord's interest in us! Will not a man be careful of his children, his treasure, his jewels? 'Such am I. (Heb. ii. 13. Exod. xix. 5. Mal. iii. 17.) Thy sovereign love hath bought me--made me *thine* (Isa. xliii. 3, 4)--*I am thine; save me*. Thou hast saved me; "thou hast delivered my soul from death; wilt thou not deliver my feet from falling?" (Ps. lvi. 13.) Save me from the love of sin, from the daily guilt and power of sin; from the treachery of my own foolish heart: from all this, and all besides, which thou seest ensnaring to my soul. If I am not *thine*, whence this desire, this endeavour to *seek thy precepts*? What mean my privileged moments of communion with thee? What mean the yet unsatisfied desires after a conformity to *thine* image? Lord, I would humbly plead *thine* own act, thy free and sovereign act, that made me *thine*. *Save me*, because thou hast brought thy salvation near to me, and sealed me *thine*. I need mercy to begin with me; mercy to accompany me; mercy to abide with me for ever. *I am thine; save me.*'

And what irresistible energy does it give to our pleading, that this was the sole purpose, that brought down the Son of God from Heaven! "I came down"--said he--"from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing.*" (John, vi. 38, 39.) Of this purpose he was enabled to testify at the conclusion of his work--"*Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition.*" (John, xvii. 12; xviii. 9.)

But some cry for *salvation*, who neglect duty, and thus make void their plea. Can we make our interest good, by *seeking his precepts*? Is it the way in which we love to walk?

Then let us not desist from our plea before God, until our heart listens to the voice of love, centering every blessing of creation, redemption, and heavenly calling, in the privilege of adoption--"Thus saith the Lord, that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed thee: I have called thee by thy name; *thou art mine. Thou art my servant*; O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions; and as a cloud thy sins." (Isa. xliii. 1; xlv. 21, 22.) I have regarded this thy plea. I have heard this thy prayer--*I am thine, save me.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The same plea is urged in prayer, Ps. cxliii. 12; lxxxvi. 2. Margin. Comp. also verse 125.