

“Be Not Wise In Your Own Conceits!”

Some of the dear friends feel very loath to “give poor Judas up”, and some seem to feel that their sympathy for him is an evidence that they have “more love than others”. Those who come to Christ are not selected because they are the least blemished amongst men; they are oftener the more blemished; the less blemished often feel a self-complacency and satisfaction which hinders them from coming to God as repentant sinners and from realising that they can be justified only through the imputed merit of Christ. But those who come to Christ and hear Him, soon learn how imperfect are their depraved conceptions, and they seek and obtain *His mind*, that it may be theirs thenceforth, as *instead of their own judgments*. “We have the mind of Christ”, says the Apostle. It is our “new mind”; we are “transformed by the renewing of our minds”, so as to be able to “prove [know] what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.”—Rom. 12:2.

Those whose hearts go out so strongly to Judas seem to indicate by their questions that, however much they have submitted their judgment to God’s will on some questions, they have not submitted them on this point. The reason seems to be that they deceive themselves into thinking that their sympathy with Judas is the true love which the Scriptures everywhere enjoin as the essence of Christian character. But they are deceiving themselves. To love an evil thing is on a par with hating a good thing. Both are wrong; both are sinful; both are evidence that the depraved mind is not renewed, remodelled, transformed into the mind of Christ.

The mind of the Lord, inculcated by His Word, teaches that we are to love the beautiful, pure, true, noble; we are to love (in the sense of sympathising with) the weak, the penitent and oppressed, who are seeking for the paths of righteousness and truth; but we are to “*hate iniquity*” and “every false way,” and all the meanness and sin which is wilful, against light and of the Devil.

Cease to pride yourself upon love for one of the most detestable characters known to the pages of history, of whom our Lord, who so loved (sympathised with) the world that He laid down His life for it, said, “It had been better for that man if he had never been born.” Adopt God’s standpoint. As the Apostles say, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked”; “He that doeth righteousness is righteous [and approved of God], but he that practices sin [knowingly, wilfully] is *of the Devil*.”—Gal. 6:7; I John 3:6-8.

For our part, we have no thought of ever becoming more loving than the Lord; we accept His definitions and seek to be conformed mentally to His standard—the image of God’s dear Son. We want to love *just as* He loves and *just what* He loves, and we want to *hate* what *He hates*. Of Him it is written, “Thou hast *loved righteousness and hated iniquity*; therefore, God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.” (Heb. 1:9; Psa. 45:7.) “Do not I *hate* them, O Lord, that *hate Thee*?... I hate them with a perfect hatred”.—Psa. 139:21, 22.

We are glad that neither Satan nor Judas nor any other creature will ever be tormented to all eternity. We are glad that a full, fair opportunity for coming to a knowledge of the Lord and of the way of righteousness will be granted to every member of Adam’s race; and we are glad that, on the contrary, all who rejoice not in the Truth, but rejoice in iniquity, will be utterly and everlastingly destroyed in the Second Death. We abominate Satan, who, for over six thousand years, has wrought unrighteousness and gloated over the evil and pain and sorrow which he has wrought, and who with clear knowledge of the redemptive work has for eighteen centuries opposed the Kingdom and the great salvation. The person who could believe in Satan’s conversion after all this battling against the Light and the Truth has a perverse mind, very sadly blinded by the “god of this world”—a mind thoroughly out of harmony with the Word.—Extract from article: ‘Was Judas a Hypocrite?’