

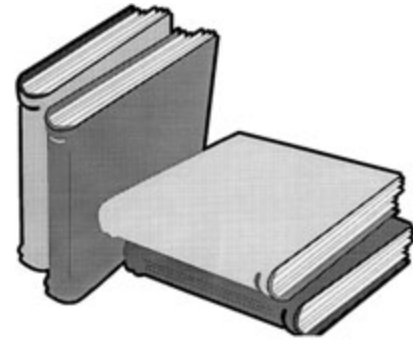
The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1027

The Great “Except”, I.

John 6:44 (KJV) ⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Until the Father draws the heart of man by His grace, man will not believe. We are spiritually dead, and have no power to give ourselves life. We need a new principle put in us from above. Facts prove it. Preachers see it. The Tenth Article of our own Church expressly declares it: “The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith and calling upon God.” This witness is true.

But after all, of what does this inability of man consist? In what part of our inward nature does this impotence reside? ... His inability is not physical but moral.

It would not be true to say that a man has a real wish and desire to come to Christ, but no power to come. It would be far more true to say that a man has no power to come because he has no desire or wish.

It is not true that he would come if he could. It is true that he would come if he would.

These things, no doubt are deep and mysterious. By truths like these God proves the faith and patience of His people. Can they believe in Him? Can they wait for a fuller expression at the last day? What they see not now they shall see hereafter.

One thing at any rate is abundantly clear, and that is man’s responsibility for his own soul. ... If lost at last, it will prove to have been his own fault. ... Christ would have saved him, but he would not be saved. He would not come to Christ, that he might have life.

¹ A reference to the Thirty Nine Articles, a doctrinal statement of the Church of England, 1563.