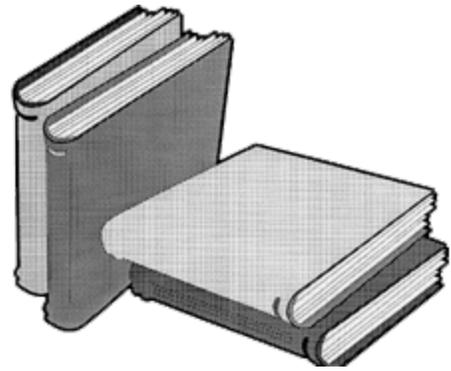


The Rock and Pit

*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 959

Delayed Answers to Prayer; Cannon in your Defence.

I must refer to the long delay, and every other possible grievance, to the scriptures of truth. If we were not creatures [i.e., created beings] we might have a right to choose, if we were not sinners we might perhaps venture to complain of sufferings. If the Lord were not wise he might mistake our case; if He were not good he might deal hardly with us. If this life were our all, delays and crossings for one, two, or three years would be of great importance.

But reverse all these suppositions, say that we are creatures, sinful pardoned creatures, bought with the blood of Jesus; that our Saviour is our shepherd, that He is infinitely wise and good in himself, and has engaged his wisdom and goodness on our behalf, that He suffered for us, and calls us by grace that we may suffer for him (Acts 19:16); say farther that every event we are concerned in is under his immediate direction, and all to work for good, that what we call heavy is light and the long and tedious but momentary as to our true existence and when compared with ... the length of eternity to which they lead. Let all these truths be planted like so many cannon in your defence and see whether self-will and unbelief will dare to look them in the face.

He gives us health, liberty, and many comforts ... But in a few things he crosses or delays our inclinations, telling us at the same time that it is for our benefit, that we shall find his season the best, and that he will withhold nothing that is truly good. He gives us, so to speak, 96 or 97 blessings in hand, 3 or 4 he bids us wait for, but because we have not the whole hundred all at once, we forget the value of the rest, we grieve and despond, the sun shines upon us in vain. Alas, what wayward, perverse, unreasonable children are we.

John Newton (Anglican pastor, author of *Amazing Grace*),
1779, in *Wise Counsel: John Newton's Letters to John Ryland Jr.*,
Banner of Truth 2009 (A wonderful book in my opinion), p. 123-124.
cvbbs.com \$21 as of 6/14.