

one who, having felt himself to be a sinner, believes in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, and who, having obtained mercy, has devoted himself wholly to Christ, and takes the law of Christ as the guide of all his life. I cannot tell you what a joy it would be to me to think that you are thus a Christian. Are you?"

Mr. Henry hesitated. After a moment or two, however, he said, "Well, Mr. Johnson, honestly, in that sense, I hardly think that as yet I am one."

"If you had really been a Christian," said Mr. Johnson, "I should have had to claim your gratitude for the enjoyment of the greatest of all mercies—for a year's forgiveness, granted day by day; for a year's experience of the grace of the Holy Spirit; for strength for conflict; for rich consolation in trouble; for deep and abiding peace; and I can scarcely tell you what besides. Ah, you don't know what you have missed through not giving your heart to Christ!"

"I have had a great deal to make me happy," said Mr. Henry; "but I can readily believe I might have been far happier if I had been a real Christian—a Christian, I mean, in your sense of the word."

"And yet," said Mr. Johnson, "although you cannot thank God for the actual enjoyment of such blessings as He gives to none but His own children, how much you owe Him for mercies by whose gift He has bought your salvation. He has prolonged your life; He has kept you from that greatest of all calamities, a hardened heart. I think His Word has sometimes come to you with power; and then the troubles through which you have passed, and the mercies He has shown you in connection with them, have led you to feel how strong His claims were on your trust and love. Am I not right in saying all this?"

"Yes, sir, I think you are," replied Mr. Henry. "Certainly you are right in what you say about God's great forbearance and goodness; and I hope also in what you say as to its influence on my heart."

"Then, putting all together," said Mr. Johnson, "your temporal and your religious mercies, is it not true that, of all the debts you owe, beyond all comparison the largest is the debt you owe to God?"

"Yes, yes, sir," said Mr. Henry, with deep feeling. "How strange it is that I should have so forgotten it!"

"You told me," said Mr. Johnson, "that you had no debts you could not pay, even though a few accounts should come in which you had overlooked. But we can never any of us pay the debt we owe to God. Still, we can acknowledge it, both in our words and our life. May I tell you how?"

"I think," said Mr. Henry, "I have some idea of what you mean; but do tell me."