

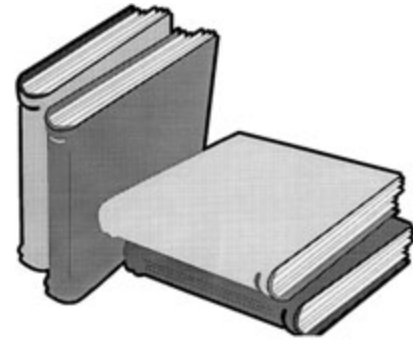
# The Rock and Pit

*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



Special Issue for July 7, 2019.

## **I Shall Not Die, but Live. 1. I Obtained No Clear Grasp of the Gospel.**

I owe it to my mother that, by the grace of God, I grew up believing the Bible to be true, and prepared to question anything that cast doubt on biblical teaching. It was she who taught me the verse, 'Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me', as a prayer at bedtime.

I went to school in Prestwick and Ayr [Scotland] and continued to attend our parish church and Sunday School throughout my childhood and teenage years. During all this time, I obtained no clear grasp of the gospel. I am now inclined to think that this must have been at least as much my own fault as that of the teachers and preachers. It seems hardly credible that all the many sermons and lessons I heard left the central truths totally obscure. But I remained very ignorant. **I was aware that there was a more thoroughgoing form of religion than that professed in the Church of Scotland**, but I assumed it was just a more intense version of the same thing, and not a radically different teaching.

In regard to a career, I thought of the possibility of the Church of Scotland ministry and made some enquiries. One useful outcome of this was that I studied Greek in my final year at [high] school. The knowledge gained was helpful afterwards in studying the New Testament.

I was not indifferent to religion during those years, and I do not believe the Spirit of God left me completely to myself; but the various lines of thought I pursued, in the absence of clear teaching, were not very profitable.

Douglas Taylor (1948-2014), *I Shall Not Die, but Live*. BoT 2016.  
The title of this book and the name of the blog from which most of the book is taken, 'Works Worth Declaring', come from Ps 118:17, '*I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord*'.

**To Be Continued.**