

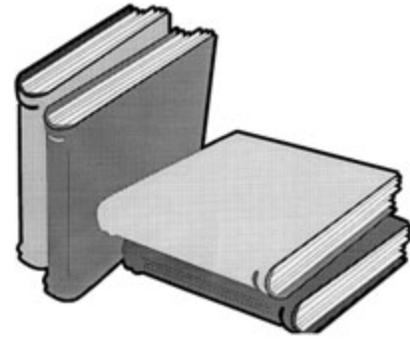
The Rock and Pit

*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 1004

And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

John 5:40. KJV. ESV, NIV: *You refuse to come.*"

Let us mark, in this passage, **the reason why many souls are lost.** The Lord Jesus says to the unbelieving Jews, "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life."

These words are a golden sentence, which ought to be engraven in our memories, and treasured up in our minds. ***It is want of will to come to Christ for salvation*** that will be found, at last, to have shut the many out of heaven. It is not men's sins.

It is not any decree of God. We are not told in the Bible of any whom God has only created to be destroyed.

It is not any limit in Christ's work of redemption. He has paid a price sufficient for all mankind.

It is something more than this. **It is man's own innate unwillingness** to come to Christ, repent, and believe. Either from pride, or laziness, or love of sin, or love of the world, **the many have no mind, or wish, or heart, or desire to seek life in Christ.** "God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:11.) But men stand still, and will not stir hand or foot to get life. And this is the whole reason why many of the lost are not saved.

This is a painful and solemn truth, but one that we can never know too well. It contains a first principle in Christian theology. **Thousands, in every age, are constantly labouring to shift the blame of their condition from off themselves.** They talk of their inability to change. They tell you complacently, that they *cannot help* being what they are! They know ... that they are wrong, but they *cannot* be different!

Such talk will not stand the test of the Word of Christ before us. The unconverted are what they are because they have no will to be better.

J. C. Ryle,
From his commentary on John, 1865, Vol. 1 p. 313-14.