

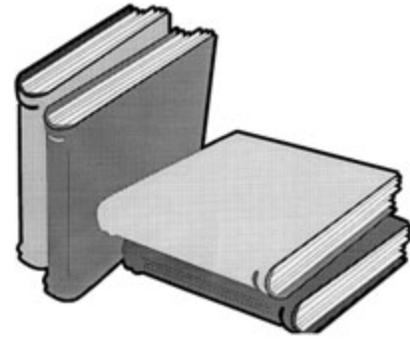
# The Rock and Pit

*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 1006

## ***The Conversion of John Brown (1722-1787), A Scottish Minister.***

*Yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*

John 5:40 (ESV)

In his thirteenth and fourteenth years, Brown was irresistibly attracted to the gospel. He read the major religious books of the period, such as Joseph Allein's *An Alarm to the Unconverted*. [Still in print.] ...

Though Brown profited by what he read, and was often convicted by it for several days, **he resisted resting on free grace alone.** "Such was the bias of my heart, under its convictions, that **I was willing to do anything rather than flee to Christ**, and trust to his free grace alone for my salvation," he wrote. ...

After a severe fever in 1741 [at age 19] Brown became greatly concerned about his soul's eternal welfare. While his sheep were resting in the fold [he was poor with little education, and was hired to tend sheep in the field] he went to hear a sermon two miles away, running to and fro from the church. He heard three sermons in this manner, the last of which was preached on John 6:64,

"There are some of you that believe not." ...

The next morning he heard a sermon on Isaiah 53:4, "Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows." That greatly eased his anxiety. "I was made, as a poor lost sinner, as the chief of sinners, to essay [try] appropriating [taking] the Lord Jesus as having done all for *me*, and as wholly made over to *me* in that gospel, as the free gift of God; and as my all-sufficient Saviour, answerable to all my folly, ignorance, guilt, filth, slavery, and misery,"

Joel Beeke and Randall Pederson, in  
John Brown, *Systematic Theology*, 1722, Reformation Heritage 2015.