

“O TO BE LIKE THEE”

To be like Jesus – A perfect sentiment and marvelous aspiration. A Christian’s primary goal must be to emulate the character of the One who bought us from sin. If all Christians would strive for this one goal – to be like Christ – there would be far less division and problems would be resolved much more quickly. When we sing songs of praise in worship to God, we should pay close attention to what we are “teaching and admonishing one another” (Col. 3:16). The lyrics of Scriptural songs are edifying and exhort us to continued faithfulness. Let us look at just a few of the Biblical principles we sing in the song, “O To Be Like Thee.”

“Gladly I’ll Forfeit All Of Earth’s Treasures”

If any proof is needed that we should strongly consider what we say while singing in worship, this should suffice. Do we really mean this phrase when we sing? The Bible does not teach us that we must be destitute in order to be saved, but we are taught, “lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Mat. 6:19-20). For a time, Jesus forfeited His rightful place beside the Father to be “lower than the angels for the suffering of death” (Heb. 2:9) so that we might have the opportunity to be saved and live eternally with Him.

“Lowly In Spirit”

Jesus did not “think of himself more highly than he ought” (Rom. 12:3). He was meek and lowly (Mat. 11:28-30). Jesus was not ashamed to spend time with “publicans and sinners” (Mark 2:16) because He “came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (2:17). To be like Jesus, we must “be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits” (Rom. 12:16). The inspired Paul also writes, “if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself” (Gal. 6:3).

“Jesus, Thy Perfect Likeness To Wear”

There is only one way that man can put on the likeness of Jesus – “for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27). An individual could be loving, compassionate, and humble all his life, but if he does not obey the Gospel of Christ, these honorable traits will not be “accounted to him for righteousness” (Gal. 3:6). In order to be like Christ, one must submit wholly to the will of the Father (Luke 22:42). Upon hearing the will of God (Rom. 10:17), one is called upon to believe (Heb. 11:6), repent of sins (Luke 13:3), confess that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), and be immersed in water to have his past sins forgiven (Acts 2:38). After following God’s plan to save, one becomes a “new creature” (2 Cor. 5:17) to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). This new life is “in Christ” (Rom. 6:3), whose likeness we have “put on” through obedience to Him.

Let us obey God and study daily so that we can be like Him who redeems from sin.

- Brad Green

