

## BELONGING TO THE LORD (part 3)

### Living and Walking Like we Belong to Him

Isaiah 43:1, "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

Isaiah 43:22, "But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel."

In our last effort, we concentrated on experiencing and having knowledge that we belong to the Lord. In this effort, let us consider how we, who have hope we belong to the Lord, should live in this world. Israel of the Old Testament was blessed to hear the words of the prophets declaring unto them God's love. The Lord, on several occasions, made it clear how He had cared for this people. But this people in Isaiah 43:22 is said to be "weary" of the Lord. Serving the One, who had blessed them so much, was now a burden rather than a privilege. Offering unto God the best of their flocks, honoring God with their devotion of service, and keeping the commandments of the Lord; had become a struggle rather than a joy. So the Lord sent His prophet not only to comfort them by the knowledge of belonging to Him, but also to tell them of their sin.

This verse of scripture is one that still finds application in the hearts and minds of the children of God today. Being "weary" of the Lord happens to us, in the year 2016, on regular basis. Actually, we should never allow this to happen! We, who have received the mercies and grace of God, find ourselves struggling to give unto the Lord our time and service, but yet are willing and excited to apply ourselves to worldly pleasures. Does the service of the Lord "weary" you, or are you filled with zeal to offer unto God the best that you have? According to 1 John 5:3, "His commandments are not grievous", which means that the commands of the Lord are not burdensome. According to Paul in Romans 12:1, by us offering ourselves a "living sacrifice", we are simply doing that which is our "reasonable service".

A few weeks ago I went with my mother for her scheduled doctor's examination. The doctor's do this in hope of finding any problems with my mother's health early so it could be treated as successfully as possible. In 2 Corinthians 13:5, the Apostle Paul calls on the Church at Corinth to perform a self examination. In my humble estimation, there is no greater examination than the one we perform on ourselves in examining our walk of discipleship. If we believe that we "Belong to the Lord", it would show a spirit of thanksgiving, and glorify Him by living and acting in a Godly way. If we are not living as such, we need to remedy this as soon as possible. A proper self examination would benefit in finding areas in our lives that need our attention. Why should I be so motivated to do this, you ask? Because He is our God; our Savior; our Redeemer; our Shepherd; our King; and the One who loved us so much He gave His Only Begotten Son for us on the Cross of Calvary that poor, undeserving, ungodly sinners like you and me would have a home in heaven.

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