

JUST AS I AM, I COME TO THEE

Romans 7:24-25 “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

What would have caused St. Paul to struggle so mightily? It was sin! His sin caused him to exclaim, “Wretched man that I am!” “Who will deliver me?” he pleads. You can read the pain and heartache between the lines, can’t you?

Earlier in this chapter St. Paul wrote about his struggle with sin, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.” (Romans 7:19-20) Even though he was an Apostle, personally called to faith by Jesus on the road to Damascus, he too battled sin and Satan.

No one is immune from spiritual warfare. St. Paul was not. Neither are you. The sinful nature with which you were conceived and born continues to live in you. The good that you want to do, you do not always do. And, that which you do not want to do, you do. This is in spite of your baptism where your Old Adam (sinful nature) was drowned. Drowned, however, means that daily you are in need of the power of your baptism to continue that drowning, to overcome sin striving to once again take over your heart and life.

Who will deliver you? St Paul answered this question for himself, “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” His answer is also your answer for he wrote “our Lord.” This is the answer Peter gave to the people who asked him, “What must we do to be saved?” (Acts 2:37) His answer, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” (Acts 2:38) This is what St. Paul told the Galatians, “All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Galatians 3:27) Jesus, through the Sacrament of Baptism has given you forgiveness, life and salvation.

Yes, you sin daily. But through the saving work of Jesus, the Holy Spirit works faith in your heart to accept Jesus saving work in your behalf. By God’s grace you are clothed in the robes of Christ’s righteousness. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

Prayer: Just as I am, without one plea, LORD Jesus You shed Your blood for me. You lived that I might never die. You died that I might live on high. Send Your Spirit into my heart to daily renew me in my faith and trust in You for my forgiveness of sins. Amen.

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my should of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many-a conflict, many-a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
(LSB 570)