

No Strings Attached

“He that spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32).

On one occasion, I heard that Evangelist Ed Corn, who was greatly used of God in my life, received a small monetary gift from his brother in law. Indicating that he could do with the money as he pleased, he said to him, “No strings attached.” I understand that Brother Corn was so moved by those three words he preached a sermon by that title. The more I have reflected on the story the bigger the subject has become.

“No strings attached!” That’s not true in most spheres, is it? At times it appears that there are strings everywhere! There are political strings, educational strings, financial strings, labor strings, and family strings. And, heaven help us, there are even religious strings in the church world. From the time we awake in the morning until the time we lie down again at night, we are confronted with demanding associations.

The message of this text is definitely “No Strings Attached.” Throughout the entire book of Romans God’s free grace is proclaimed. We are justified, made righteous, accepted with God, not on the basis of our works, but because God has been gracious to us in Christ. Amazed and overwhelmed at such grace, we willingly give our lives to His holy will. His unconditional love for us produces in us an unconditional commitment to Him.

There were no strings attached to God when He sent His Son into this world! God did not just feel sorry for the human family, and certainly no one had merited His loving kindness. Having purposed to redeem us, He purposefully “spared not His Own Son.” He was gracious to us because He is a God of grace. He did what He did because He is Who He is! He gave Jesus with open arms.

There were no strings attached to Christ when He went to the cross! In complete agreement with the divine will, Jesus willingly died for our sins. He was not forced to die by the Jews or coerced to die by the Romans. He said, “I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again” (John 10:17, 18). Voluntarily, Jesus was “delivered. . . up for us all.”

There are no strings attached to the blessings God gives us in Christ! Again, we read, “How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” The words “freely give” indicate “to show one’s self gracious, or to graciously bestow.” Not only has God given Jesus out of His Own good pleasure, but along with Him, all the bestowments of God’s loving heart are readily provided. May we enjoy it all with no strings attached!