

TRUST AND OBEY, AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO PAY

by Pastor Tom Hooper

Friend, could it be we suffer pain, shame, loneliness, isolation, the feelings of uselessness? We tried to the best of our ability to cover, hide or just block out these feelings with drugs, alcohol, bad relationships, sexual obsessions, or denial. Almost anything was accepted except honestly facing the fact that we needed help — from somewhere outside of ourselves! We had already tried all of OUR ideas, and they just didn't work! If indeed this is where you find yourself, welcome! There is some good news, and there is some bad news we must look at. First, the good news is that there is absolute and lasting help for whatever you are suffering: you can become a new person, life can be beautiful and worth living every day, you can have more energy and be more useful than you ever thought possible, or have not thought possible in a long time. Would you like this for yourself? The good news is you can have it all! The bad news is that it will cost you everything! First, it will cost you your pride and self-sufficiency — you will have to step down or crawl down from the throne of your life, and admit that YOU cannot run your life successfully. Now, there is room for the Creator of heaven and earth to assume that position, but YOU must put Him there and give Him control of your life!! Then, you must take YOU, that old you that was living each day the way YOU wanted to, and put it to death. Now, allow the Creator to remove it from you so that the stink and ugliness of it does not contaminate the new you in Christ Jesus, and the fresh breath of life you want to experience. This will take complete trust in the Creator, who CAN and WILL do exactly what He says He will do. He also knows your ability to trust has been all but destroyed by others, or it may be that you can't even trust yourself any more. But you must!! Try, try again — believing He can and will give you the power to be able to do it (Isaiah 40:29, II Cor. 12:9). He can absolutely do it, as long as YOU KEEP Him on the throne of your life.

When God is up on the throne, He can see so much clearer than we can, and His eye will guide us (Psalm 32:8) in the right direction as we journey through time. He will give us the ability to understand the Time Traveler's Manual. It is the most important piece of equipment that we have for our journey. This Manual is full of maps that can guide us to peace, love, happiness, fulfillment, confidence and real joy! To get the full benefit of the Manual, we must spend time in it, STUDY (see II Timothy 2:15), and memorize (Psalm 119:11, Deut. 11:18) its instruction that we may be thoroughly equipped for the journey (II Timothy 3:16-17). The contents we should "eat" (Jeremiah 15:16) for our joy, strength and protection on the journey.

This Manual also works as a light which will light our path so we don't stumble and fall, for there is darkness all around, and this light will dispel the darkness. When the sun rises in the morning, we can see all right, but it is the light of the SON in the Manual that will keep us moving even when darkness falls. Another thing I must share with you, my beloved friends — this journey does not come without its share of enemies (Ephesians 6:12) and dragons that must be slain on the way (Revelation 12:9; I Cor. 10:13; Ephesians 6:10-18).

Again, your Manual must come into play,
Because with it, these enemies and dragons you can slay.
The Manual you studied will be your two-edged sword,
The Word of God, the Sword of the Lord,
The sword against which no dragon can stand.
So hold it firmly, yes, firmly in your hand,
As you continue your journey to the abode of the Great "I AM".
When we arrive, my brothers and sisters, what glory it will be!
Do you remember the Son in the Manual by whose light we can see?
It seems He paid for our journey — the tickets are stamped, "Paid in Full"
A long time ago at a place called Calvary.