

23. Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. Proverbs 23:23

This is the merchant-man, who purchased the “pearl of great price at the cost of all that he had.” (Matthew 13:45-46.) The blessing can indeed only be “bought without price.” (Isaiah 55:1.) It is as free, as it is precious. But the figure sets out the importance of gaining it at any cost. First, however, let us satisfy ourselves that the seller is no deceiver; that he is perfectly upright in his dealings. “Buy of me” (Revelation 3:18) — saith the Savior. This sets the matter at rest. If we do not really want the article, we shall not pay much heed to the injunction. “Buy those things that ye have need of” — is the rule. Ponder also its inestimable value. It is the truth, the only means of salvation, the only deliverance from sin, the only principle of holiness, the “One thing needful.” Place the blessing fully in view — “The excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord — that I may win Christ, and be found in him — that I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.” We cannot be defrauded in the purchase. It is a cheap purchase at any price. (Proverbs 3:15.) The “lover of pleasure” values highly the baubles of Vanity Fair. But Bunyan beautifully describes the pilgrims, answering the sneering reproach — ‘What will you buy?’ They lifted up their eyes above — ‘We will buy the truth.’

But, like the well-practiced merchant, we must secure the genuine article. Many a counterfeit article is put forth. Bring everything “to God’s standard.” That which brings wisdom, instruction, and understanding, is the truth of God.

Then, having ascertained its riches and its purity — not only wish for it, gaze at it, commend it, but buy the truth. Not only bid, make an offer, but strike the agreement. Make it thine. The man did not wish for the field with the “hidden treasure,” but he “sold all that he had and bought it.” And let thy purchase be the whole truth. Every particle, the very filings of the gold, are invaluable — “Set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee.” (Ezekiel 40:4.) Many are content to be at some pains, but they stop short of the prize. (2 Timothy 3:7.) Shrink not from the full price; as did Herod; the young ruler; Agrippa; and therefore they bought it not. Moses gave up for it “the treasures of Egypt;” Paul, his Jewish privileges, and high reputation. The Hebrews “took joyfully the spoiling of their goods.” The martyrs “loved not their lives unto the death.” And who of these repented of the costly purchase?

Reader: have you ever known that apprehension of Divine Truth, that has made it in your eyes worth every sacrifice to buy it? No one — be assured — who has really bought it, will ever be willing to sell it.

~Charles Bridges

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Give unto the LORD the glory due unto
his name; worship the LORD in the
beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:2*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.