

## **“Mother, May I Wallow?”**

**By C. E. Henry (1960)**

One day a little lamb was taking a walk with its mother, and as they walked, they went by a pigpen. A pig was stretched out, grunting contentedly as he wallowed in the mud and muck of the pen. He looked so perfectly contented and comfortable that the little lamb was greatly impressed. Indeed, the lamb was led to believe that he had been missing something. He turned to his mother a little breathlessly because of the wonderful idea that had just come to him.

“Mother,” he said, “may I wallow?” The question rocked mother ewe back on her heels. She was both shocked and surprised to think that a child of hers would ask such a question. When she regained her composure, she answered quite firmly: “Of course not! Sheep don't wallow.”

But, little lamb was not convinced, and the minute his mother's back was turned, he darted over to the pigpen, slipped between the bars, and felt his feet sink into the cool mud. It was deeper than he had thought, and it smelled terrible. He tried to back out, but found the mud clinging to his feet. He began to be frightened, and he jerked frantically, but only got in deeper. By now he was terrified. He wished fervently that he hadn't come, and that he had obeyed his mother. He thrashed about in desperation, lost his balance, and sprawled on his side in the evil-smelling muck. The pig looked over his way and grunted companionably, but little lamb was frantic. He could not move. He could only roll his eyes, and he thought every breath would be his last. Finally, just as he had bleated weakly for the last time and given up, the farmer came along and tenderly lifted the little lamb from his death trap, thoroughly cleaned him, and restored him to his mother. His mother was terribly hurt because he had disobeyed her, yet even more concerned because her own child, a tiny white sheep, had tried to wallow.

“I feel that you have learned your lesson,” she said. “Only pigs wallow. As a sheep, you are an animal who sets the pattern of behavior above other barnyard animals. Hogs wallow, but sheep are different creatures from hogs, and sheep don't wallow.”

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27). “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit, and, a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire” (2Peter 2:20-22).

### **Without a Parachute**

“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns; broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jer. 2:13). The evening news reported regarding a photographer who was a skydiver. He had jumped from a plane along with numerous other skydivers and filmed the group as they fell and opened their parachutes. On the film shown on the telecast, as the final skydiver opened his chute, the picture went berserk. The announcer reported that the cameraman had fallen to his death, having jumped out of the plane without his parachute. It wasn't until he reached for the absent ripcord that he realized he was free falling without a parachute. The photographer had faith in a parachute which was never buckled on. Faith in anything other than God, the fountain of living waters, can be just as tragic spiritually. Let us never forsake the fountain of living waters for things of lesser worth.

### **Without a Purpose**

“Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number” (Jer. 2:32). Several years ago, the London Transit Authority had a problem. Buses were going right past passengers who were waiting at designated places to be picked up. They were at the bus stops, and the buses were sailing right past them. The London Transit Authority released a statement to explain their actions. The statement said it was impossible for them to maintain schedules if they always had to stop and pick up passengers!

We often forget our purpose as Christians by forgetting the God whom we are endeavoring to serve. The London Transit Authority could have easily maintained schedules if they picked up no passengers at all. However, they would have destroyed their very purpose for existence. Let us not do the same.

### **Without Salvation**

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). People often ask, “Is a man lost just because he is not baptized?” Actually, he is lost because he is a sinner. If a man who can't swim falls into a lake and a boat is sent, but he won't get into the boat, is he drowning because he won't get into the boat? No, he is drowning because he is in the water. Likewise, a man is not lost just because he is not baptized, but is lost because he is in sin. Just as the boat is the means of rescue and one must get into it, the gospel is the means of salvation and must be obeyed (baptism included) to rescue from sin.

### **Without the World**

“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense, says the LORD” (Jer. 3:10). A man went inside a telephone booth and dialed the number of a friend. When the connection was made, the friend kept saying, “I can't hear you; speak louder.” All his friend could hear was the sound of the roar of the traffic in the background. He then said, “Shut the door so I can hear you.”

For us to truly hear God's word and be totally committed to Him, we must shut the door to the outside world. Worldly interests and enticements distract us from serving the Lord. Let us set our minds on and seek first the things above so that we can serve God with the whole heart and not in pretense.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--“I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven.” (A. W. Tozer)

--“I am still in the land of the dying; I shall be in the land of the living soon.” (The last words of John Newton, author of the hymn “Amazing Grace”)

--“And yet all loneliness, angers, hatreds, envies, and itchings that Hell contains, if rolled into one single experience and put into the scale against the least moment of the joy that is felt by the least in Heaven, would have no weight that could be registered at all. Bad cannot succeed even in being bad as truly as good is good.” (C. S. Lewis)

--“If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.” (Vance Havner)

--We may speak about a place where there are no tears, no death, no fear, no night; but those are just the benefits of heaven. The beauty of heaven is seeing God.