

The Boy and the Monument

A little boy – overwhelmed at the sight before him – stood in front of the Washington Monument.

His eyes drifted to a guard standing in front of it.

The boy walked over to the guard, and looked up at him.

“Sir, I want to buy it,” he said, motioning to the towering monument.



The guard stooped down and said, “How much do you have?”

The boy reached into his pocket and pulled out a quarter. The guard said, “That’s not enough.”

The boy replied, “I thought you would say that.” He then pulled out nine cents more.

The guard looked down at the boy and said, “You need to understand three things:

“First, 34 cents is not enough. In fact, \$34 million is not enough to buy the Washington Monument.

“Second, the Washington Monument is not for sale.

“And third, if you are an American, the Washington Monument already belongs to you.”

As I read that story, I realized there is a spiritual analogy. It involves forgiveness.

We all recognize that we are not perfect human beings, as hard as we might try to be. Every sport has established rules, and they serve a good and real purpose – they lay out a consistent framework that allows the game to be played. But the point of the game is not to live by the rules; the point of the game is to play!

In the same fashion, the law of God is a framework under which we live our lives. It is not why we live our lives; instead, it shows how we should live – and, consequently, how much we need Jesus Christ that we may live.

(more)

Because we are imperfect, we will break God's law. So here are three things we need to understand about His forgiveness:

1. We cannot earn it.
2. It is not for sale.
3. If we accept Jesus Christ as Savior, we already have it.

Such knowledge – on all three counts – leads to happy and successful living.

But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe (Galatians 3:22 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter