

Belonging to Salvation

“Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things – things that belong to salvation.” Hebrews 6:9

When one thing belongs to another, it's something that is often understood without the need for acknowledgment. It's unspoken. For example, a person walking their dog has no need to announce as they walk, “This dog belongs to me.” It is self-evident that the dog belongs to the one walking the dog. In fact, when we refer to the person to whom the dog belongs, we give the person the title *The Owner*. The dog is *owned* by its master and belongs to its master.

The fact that the dog belongs to The Owner is self-evident, even if the dog is without a leash and running freely. It's understood not only by The Owner, who is responsible for the life of the dog if the dog runs into the road or bites another person, but it's understood also by the onlookers in the body language of The Owner and of the dog. The dog will interact with The Owner more than with strangers and will behave differently with The Owner than with strangers. It's also understood, however, by the dog that the dog belongs to The Owner. The dog is not its own. The dog is far more loyal to The Owner and far more likely to protect The Owner than strangers. The dog's ownership and belonging are in this way self-evident.

In the same way, things that belong to salvation are just as self-evident. The evidence of a thing's belonging to salvation is self-evident in behavior, in atmosphere, in radiance. In equally the same way, the evidence of a thing's belonging to condemnation are self-evident. These things don't require a leash or a sign in order for us to see it for what it is. Just as there are things that belong to salvation, there are also things that belong to condemnation. As we go throughout our days and interact with the world around us, we should ask ourselves, “Does this belong to salvation?” The writer of Hebrews, quoting the prophet Haggai, tells us in 12:26-27 that once more the heavens will be shaken, and that only things that are eternal will be left. If we belong to salvation, let us also take part in that which belongs to salvation, or we may find ourselves without our leashes, carried from our Owner, and devastated when the things that belong to salvation are all that are left.

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