



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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Refuse A Pardon?

In 1830, George Wilson was sentenced by a U.S. Court in Philadelphia to be hanged for robbing the mails, and for murder. Andrew Jackson was president and at the request of many of Wilson's friends, he issued a pardon for Wilson. But Wilson startled the world by **refusing to accept the pardon**. The issue became: Should the sheriff accept the court's decision and hang Wilson, or should he accept the Presidential pardon and release him? The Supreme Court handed down the decision which read: "A pardon is a paper, the value of which **depends upon its acceptance** by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under the sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but **if it is refused, it is no pardon**. George Wilson must hang." And Wilson was hanged.

You may agree that Wilson was a fool for refusing to accept the pardon, but **do you reject the pardon which God has provided you?** The Bible teaches that **all are under the sentence of sin** and condemned to hell eternally, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). But God is offering a pardon because Jesus died for you. **It is hardly to be supposed that you would reject the pardon of God's love, which Jesus purchased on Calvary** – but if you do reject that offer, it is **no pardon** – you will have to pay the penalty for sin yourself. God pleads, "*Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon*" (Isaiah 55:6-7). **Do not foolishly reject God's pardon!** Accept Christ now!