

## Pardons

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by Author Unknown

In 1829 two men — Wilson and Porter — were convicted of robbing the United States mail and sentenced to death by hanging. Three weeks before the time set for Wilson's execution, he was pardoned by President Andrew Jackson.

Strangely enough, Wilson refused the pardon. The case went to the Supreme Court and the court finally handed down its decision (United States vs. Wilson and Porter; Report, p. 150): "A pardon is a deed, to the validity of which delivery is essential, and delivery is not complete without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered, and if it is rejected, we have discovered no power in this court to force it upon him."

Most people would agree that Wilson was a fool for rejecting the pardon granted him, yet those same people daily reject the pardon which God has provided for them.

Because God is just, He must punish our sins. But because God is merciful, He Himself forgave our awful penalty through His Son on the cross of Calvary. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).

Your pardon has been signed by God Himself. Now all you have to do is accept it by so believing on Jesus Christ that you are willing to obey His commands in repentance, immersion, and the living of a holy and consecrated life (Romans 2:8). Unless you accept His pardon, you remain condemned.

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