

12 ¶ *Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.*

13 *Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it.*

14 *Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless. (Psalm 10:12-14)*

Before the present-day popular idea that “gain is godliness,” “Jesus wants you rich,” that faith in God is a gimmick men use to make themselves prosperous, men generally believed that God was against the rich and for the poor.

Indeed, Jesus did say that it is exceedingly difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God . . . impossible except for the grace of God. His riches are too big an idol for him to overcome. But the idea that poverty is to be equated with righteousness and the favor of God must also be rejected.

God is truly the helper of the fatherless, the Provider for the poor, the Champion of the down-trodden, the Comforter of the miserable, the Healer of the sick, and the Liberator of the captives. But He is such only on the terms by which He always shows His grace and mercy: Faith, absolute trust and dependence upon Him and Him alone. The passage above qualifies it: “The poor committeth himself unto thee.”

The picture set before us is the poor and humble being exploited and down-trodden by the proud, rich and powerful. These wicked men have put God out of their thoughts. They are doing wrong and know it. They have sufficient power so that even when their evil is known, no man has enough power to punish them or force them to make restitution. Men, they have overcome. God, they have condemned, despised, discounted. “No God,” they say, “At least if there is one, He will not bring me to account for my deeds.” These have been the general thoughts of greedy men down through the ages, even as it is today.

How, then, are the exploited poor to have hope of justice and deliverance? Let us say quickly, they will not have it in the way it is generally sought today. It will not be found by looking to society for sympathy. It will not be forthcoming from the politicians who hope to get your vote by promising you another government handout. It will not be achieved by passing more laws against honest work and personal responsibility. It will not come by public brawls, riots, demonstrations, looting and general hell-raising. Nor will it come by penalizing and punishing honest, hard-working businessmen. All such undertakings simply testify that the poor are just as covetous, selfish and greedy as the rich. The only difference is they are somewhat less clever and somewhat more lazy. They will share the same hell as their oppressors.

The true hope and sure confidence of the poor is in the Lord. Trust in Him. Do right, commit your heart, soul and well-being unto Him. He will surely prove Himself faithful and worthy of your worship.

-C.M.