

- 4 *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*
- 5 *His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them. (Psalm 10:4-5)*

A proud man cannot seek God. Those who seek God have no confidence in themselves; that is why they seek the Lord. Those who seek God have despaired of their own ability to get done what must be done, therefore they call upon God. They who seek the Lord are admitted failures: they cry out to Him Who cannot fail.

For the proud man to seek God, he would have to admit his failure and his wickedness. He would have to throw aside all his self-confidence and take the place of a poor helpless beggar. He would have to come to God as we all do, "hat in hand." But can not the proud man do this? Indeed he can, but then he would no longer be proud. His glory has been left in the dust of humility.

But the egotist will not do this. Indeed God is not in his thoughts at all. It never occurs to him that he should need God. He is quite self-sufficient. When he contemplates any decision, it is of no concern to him whether or not God would be pleased or displeased with his actions. He has no one more worthy of pleasing than himself. If the job is difficult, he measures it only against his ability. He undertakes nothing he does not believe himself capable of handling. The power of God does not exist for him. Everything thus falls in the realm of wordy rationale and fleshly capability.

With no thoughts of God and no consideration of His ways, the proud and wicked man's behavior and deeds are always contrary to God. They never please God, are always grievous. God's judgments are far above his horizon of sight. He never looks that high up. Like the sow with her eyes always on her own level, the ground, he never lifts his head and his thoughts high enough to consider the excellent ways and judgments of God.

The proud man is an optimist to a fault. He believes in the power of positive thinking. He "puffs" at his enemies. He will not allow himself a negative thought. In this foolish philosophy of men destitute of spiritual wisdom he has robbed himself of the grace of fear. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. He illogically thinks himself invulnerable. He will soon learn the wisdom of the proverb, "Pride goeth before a fall."

In this time when it is popular to encourage men to embellish their self-image, it might be wise for us to consider that "God resisteth the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

-C.M.