

- 5 *Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;*
6 *That thy beloved may be delivered: save with thy right hand, and answer me. (Psalm 108)*

The psalmist is experiencing some severe trials, failures, defeats. It seems God has cast him off, and no longer “goes out with his armies.” He is seeking help from his troubles, and the Lord’s aid is not immediately forthcoming (vs. 11, 12). This, however, has not shaken his faith, but rather has solidified and intensified it. He declares his faith to be fixed, steadfast, settled. There will be no looking elsewhere for help. If help is to come, it must be from the same God Who seems to have forsaken him for a time. He has come to the unshakable conclusion that there is help to be found in no other, so he will not be idolatrously, unfaithfully, and vainly seeking help from men, and fleshy means.

Our hope of triumph, blessing, success, must be in the exaltation of God. He will not bless our labors while His arm is not bared, His face hidden, His glory obscured; while men are denying His work, His power, His very existence, scorning and ignoring Him. It must be the awful revelation of His person and power that dispels our enemies, and brings our labors to fruition.

It is only in the proper knowledge and exaltation of God, that any redemptive, healing, correcting work may be done. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It must be so, for it is the loss, the absence of such fear that lies at the root of all wickedness.

- 1 *The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*
2 *For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.*
3 *The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.*
4 *He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil. (Psalm 36)*

That awful catalog of man’s depravity in Romans 3:1-17 ends with “*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*”

How futilely the world and worldly churchmen frantically try to staunch the increasing tide of ruin! They wrongly conclude that education is the key. They surmise that the breakdown of morals, civility, ethics, and the rise of violence, disorder, hate, distrust, deceit, thefts and murder in society is due to the fact that men have not been taught how to behave better. They think that more and better laws will curb this flood of wickedness. But the validity, credibility, and power of truth and law rest upon its source and authority. Without the knowledge of the Almighty, the Creator, the absolute Governor of the universe, men are merely advanced beasts. One man’s idea of truth, righteousness and order is no better than another’s. There is no one to fear or respect except the biggest and strongest bully; and these have a way of being toppled shortly by another bully of the same species, with different ideas. Nor is there sufficient innate nobility in mankind to motivate him to do right for right’s sake, even when he is taught what is right. Sermons, seminars, books, and training on marriage and the home will not make depraved men better husbands and fathers, immoral women better wives and mothers, or rebellious children orderly citizens. Sermons on God’s law the terrors of hell, the joys of salvation, the delights of heaven, will not turn men from their intent on wickedness. We may fill the earth with strict laws, highly trained policemen, maximum security prisons and death houses. Yet men will not be turned from their lust, their bent to deceit, thefts and murder. The sin in their hands is the only reality that exists for them. Nothing less than a God-given revelation of Himself in His glory will shock them into listening to, and heeding the word of God.

The gospel is good news only in view of the absolute rectitude and unyielding demands of God’s holy law. The law has power to make men tremble and cry for mercy only in view of its Lawgiver Who sits on an eternal throne, and before Whom every knee must bow and every tongue must confess and give account. Let us pray for God to be exalted before the eyes of this perishing generation, that they may find His Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord.

-C.M.