

- 1 Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.*
- 2 Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.*
- 3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. (Psalm 17:1-3)*

Blessed indeed is the person who can pray this prayer. The basic request is that God will hear the “right.” It is a tragic, yet too often true, observation that the wrong has a better hearing than the right. This is partly because those who are wrong make the loudest clamor, have the most means and power to push their point, and the least scruples about applying unethical pressure; and partly because men’s minds are so perverse that they are more likely to judge in favor of the wrong rather than the right. If we would gain a hearing for right, we had best make our petition before the just and mighty God.

But how shall we approach this just and mighty God with our petitions? Shall we offer our prayer with lying deceitful lips? shall we con Him into seeing things our way? Will not our own lustful, selfish, scheming hearts betray us before Him from Whom nothing is hidden? Shall we lift up thieving, bloodstained hands to a thrice-holy God?

Surely we must approach God right ourselves if we would have Him hear our right petition. And we really have no option about this matter. He is the one just judge and the final appeal of all things; ultimately all things will be settled in His court. Our sentence will surely come from His presence. He is most certain to prove our hearts. The day of trial will come for each of us.

O, then that we each may purpose in our hearts that our mouth shall not transgress, that when we are tried we will come forth pure as gold. How then, shall we be so found? The prophet Zechariah foretold the coming of God’s Son Who should take away the sins of all who trust in Him. “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness.” All sinners who come to Him find Him able and willing to cleanse them and present them holy before God.

-C.M.