

- 1 How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?*
- 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? (Psalm 13:1-2)*

The Psalms are accurate and practical reflections of the experiences and moods of those who trust in Christ. The complaint that thus greets us in the 13th Psalm vividly illustrates this. “How long?” How time seems to fly when we are in pleasure, and to drag when we suffer. Therefore we think wrongly that we suffer more than we rejoice, that we labor more than we rest, that we fail more than we succeed, and that we weep more than we laugh.

How impatient we are with our light afflictions and privations! How like spoiled children we behave when God does not immediately jump to satisfy our every petty whim! Therefore we make erroneous conclusions about Him.

Can God really forget us? It is utterly impossible that He should forget those for whom He gave His only begotten Son. We forget His faithfulness in our impatience. We think He has utterly cast us off, and that the temporary trial we now experience will last forever. But we are in His heart forever.

It does seem at times that God has hidden His face from us, because we cannot sensibly see it. We cannot feel that God is beholding us with His favor. But we must never forget that it is God’s faithfulness, not our feelings, that has fixed His gaze upon us, and that nothing will be permitted to touch us that is not for our ultimate good.

We err again in such trials when we “take counsel with our souls.” Our own hearts are wicked and deceitful. They cannot be trusted. No sound comfort can be found there. We should, instead, take counsel in God’s word, His promises and His mighty works. They alone can assure us until the storm is past.

Finally, let us get out from under the “underdog” complex, the complaint that our “enemy is exalted over us.” Christ is triumphant. He is seated in the heavens, and all things are under His feet. We are also seated with Him and share His victory. No enemy is ever exalted over God’s redeemed people.

-C.M.