

*The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble: the name of the God of Jacob defend thee: Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice.” (Psalm 20:1-3)*

The day of trouble comes for all of us. It is not a matter of “if” we have a day of trouble; it is “when.” “Day” is to be taken in the time period sense, not in the strict 24-hour day. It is a time when we find ourselves in deep or grievous trouble. It is also a time when we can discover in whom we have put our confidence.

We will be “heard” in the day of trouble. Upon whose ears will our cry fall? If we can think of the person we will most quickly tell our problems to, we will know from whom we expect the most comfort and consolation. If we can anticipate the one whom we would like most to hear us favorably, then we will know from whence we expect the most help. Whom do you tell about your problems?

If you could choose to have either the best defense that man could offer or that which only God can supply, which would you choose? We do indeed choose and make our choice known by whom we ask for help in the day of trouble.

If we had the choice of losing someone’s help, whose loss would we most fear? From among men, we could certainly expect a greater loss from some than from others. But if you lost all that men could do, yet retained God’s pledge to put His mighty power in action to deliver you in the day of trouble, would you have lost anything?

Most of us usually build up obligations with our friends. That is, we do them favors, we cultivate their friendship, we are careful not to offend them, and we stay on cordial terms with them. Then when the time comes that we would like to receive help from them we, consciously or otherwise, expect them to remember our good standing with them. We expect them to remember what we have been to them in the past. In like manner, if we need something from a person we have not befriended in the past, one whom we have rather alienated by some offense, we fear that he will not be disposed to help us because he remembers the past.

When our day of trouble comes, will God have reason to remember us mercifully and graciously? He certainly has cause to remember our sins and offenses. It ought be a matter of utmost concern that when that inevitable time arrives we have some reason to believe that God will remember that our faith has been put in Him through His Son.

-C.M.