

Made In Hell

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.... (Psalm 139: 14-18)

The phrase “in the lowest parts of the earth” imposes a profound spiritual interpretation upon this whole wondrous passage. It denotes *sheol* or *hades*, the place of the dead! Literally, God made us in hell!

This lifts the passage out of an objective *ex nihilo* (creation out of nothing) into the realm of redemption. In this respect the record of creation in Genesis applies: “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep”. Then the Spirit of God moved! The God-breathed regenerating power of the Holy Spirit upon a soul dead in trespasses and sins applies (Eph. 2:1). The forming of the church, the one mystical body of Christ consisting of the whole of all believers both in heaven and on earth also applies (1 Pet. 2: 9-10) (Heb. 12:23).

Like the earth, we all came out of chaos. We were totally dead and in total darkness, individually as well as the whole of all the elect. When we were yet nothing, God saw us as fully formed, possessing all the perfections wrought in Christ, complete and glorified without blemish or spot. That is how He could righteously love us from the foundation of the world! His sovereign foreknowledge sealed it all in a book of immutable record.

In fact, time and history were created for us. We do not make history: we fulfill that which He ordained. The days of our lives were themselves fashioned for us (vs.16). Without us there would have been no purpose for them. This all before there was such a thing as time.

“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!” (vs.17-18). All of this came out of the mind, the thoughts, the unsearchable wisdom of God poured out in His works of love and grace! The sum of them is too great for us to contemplate. That they are thoughts of *us* who were worse than carcasses of dead dogs...in hell, the realm of refuse and ruin when He formed us in His predestinating power.

But there is unspeakable joy and comfort in knowing that He Who knew us when we were nothing, loved us into being, ever knows us, always has us on His Mind! We are never out of His thoughts or away from His Presence. We are in His thoughts in all His purposes, especially on the Cross. We are in His thoughts while we sleep In our lapses into unbelief. In our irrationality and our stupidities. In our death! When we awake, He is there. No hiatus! We are ever with Him!

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