

*Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts. Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.” (Psalm 28:3-4)*

Although we may think of ourselves as individualists, unique, and in a class all by ourselves, yet we may each and all be classified. We fit in one bundle or another. Our manner of life qualifies us for some particular group.

There is one bunch that the psalmist cries to be delivered from: he does not want to be counted among the wicked. “Draw me not.” They shall be dragged off to hell. Oh, that this were the honest, heartfelt cry of every man!

But you say, “Surely men do not wish to be drawn off to hell.” Certainly not. But that is exactly what will happen to the workers of iniquity because, although they do not wish to go to hell, neither do they wish to forsake their evil way of life. They smilingly speak peace to every man, yet every man is their potential victim. They are at a constant war of conquest. They are neither at peace with God or man. Intent they are on plundering man and rebelling against God.

If we would be saved from the just judgment of God, we must also be saved from our sins. If we are not to be counted among the wicked, we must find a place among the just.

Punishment of the wicked is just. We love mankind as we should. God loves him infinitely more. Yet His love cannot abrogate His Holy justice. When, therefore, we regard divine justice, we must not think of the wicked as fellowmen, but as God does, wicked. They are to be rendered according to their deeds, all they attempt to do, their endeavors, and their rebellion against their Creator.

But someone now asks, “How about the mercy and grace of God to such sinners as we? Indeed we have found mercy and kindness, but it is because God’s justice has been satisfied in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. He fully paid for our wickedness that we may be counted among the just, those who have been justified by the grace of God.

-C.M.