

*To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. (Psalms 64:1)*

The Psalmist prays not to be delivered from the enemy (he knows God has promised to do that), but to be saved from the *fear* of the enemy. Such fears will cause us more harm and defeat than any other thing the enemy can do. There is always talk of some fearsome conspiracy of men against the people of God. The Catholics, the Illuminati, the New World Order, New Age, Satanist cults, the P.A.W. I recently heard that 60 concentration camps are now being built in which to put all the Bible-believing preachers. My first thought was that not nearly that many would be needed.

While this was probably a fantasy, it is true that there are always conspiracies against the people of God. That is what is in view in this Psalm. It is being plotted, planned, perfected to be launched in secrecy and deception. But we must *not let* the existence of these get one minute of our attention. If we are not careful, the devil will set our agenda and dictate our actions. He will occupy all our time and energies. If we are all in a dither trying to counteract what he is doing, we are not free to do what God has called us to do. If we are looking at the devil, we will have our eyes off Christ, and we will very quickly lose our comfort, our message, our power, *and our sanity*.

The fear of man brings a snare. We may lawfully fear none but God. To fear any other is to give them worship. It is nothing more than back-door idolatry, for we not only trust our God, but fear and reverence Him. Shall we glorify His enemy and dishonor our God by entertaining the thought that the enemy might outwit or overpower God and slip by Him and hurt us? God forbid!

The enemy sharpens many arrows (lying, bitter words), but their rhetoric shall be turned to their own destruction. God suddenly, just as the enemy thinks he has everything wrapped up, shoots one arrow. He does not miss. As Luther's hymn says, "One little word shall fell him."

-C.M.