

“Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord....Your salvation according to your word” (Psalm 119:41).

In the previous octave, the prayer has been for a divine education, *“Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes”*. (vs. 33). The petition now begun is for salvation. I need be taught, to be brought to understand your word, made to walk in it and to have my affections and gaze turned from worthless things to eternal verities. But what good is education without possession, to merely know and to not indeed have? Once I have learned what *is*, what *may be* had, it only drives my desire to have. If others receive these eternal riches, then let them come to me also.

This is the first time “salvation” appears in the 119th psalm, and it is most instructive as to its nature. We are told, first of all that it is “mercies”. Our lostness is earned and deserved. We purchased our condemnation with our sin, and are in no way owed salvation. If, therefore, it is to come to us it must be nothing less than divine mercies. It is God’s mercies and His salvation. The offense of our sins has been against Him, and Him alone. It is justly His right and in His power to punish. If we are to receive these graces they must come from His willing and free Hand. This salvation must *come* to us. We cannot go and fetch it. *“Who will ascend into heaven?” (that is to bring Christ down from above), or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is to bring Christ up from the dead)*. Rom. 10: 7-8. The salvation of God must find the lost sinner and come to him.

What hinders salvation from coming to the sinner? Not election. That may be in the cause of its coming, but the lack of it is not the cause of it being withheld. We are not damned by reprobation but by our sins. *“Your sins have separated you from your God.... hidden His face from you so that He will not hear”*(Is.59: 2). Unbelief blocks our prayers. They who come to God must *believe* that He is and that He is a rewarder. Our love of the world, our idolatry, blocks heavenly graces. We may not lay hold on heavenly virtues while our fists are tightly clenched full of worthless perishing vanities. Rebellion will not let the knee bow or the stubborn will acquiesce. If our hearts are full of hate, resentment, jealousy, envy and unforgiveness, we may be sure we shall never be conscious of the forgiveness of God.

But if we should be dismayed over these roadblocks to salvation, our souls should be cheered over the fact that there are some things that can never hinder the full salvation of God coming to us. Romans 8:35, 38-39 pours out these grand assurances: (not) *tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness or peril, or sword.”* *“neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, no any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* It is Christ Jesus who has dealt with the roadblock, the sin problem, and thrown open wide the way for salvation to come to us.

The salvation that comes to us from God must be *“according to your word”*. God’s salvation squares with His revelation. It is in His word that we learn that there is such a thing. It is *truth* that sets us free. The words spoken to us by Christ are Spirit, and they are life. Finally, God’s salvation is sent to us by His sovereign decree. He said “let there be light”, and the whole universe flamed

alive with innumerable suns and stars. He points to the blind and says “see”, and the blind sees, to the deaf and says “hear” and the deaf hears, He points to the dead in sins and says “LIVE!” and the dead lives. - *C. M.*