

*Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men; In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.” (Psalm 26:8-11)*

A prayer that every person who has ever lived will pray at least once: “Redeem me and be merciful unto me.” God-fearing people pray it often, and as often are heard. The godless will not pray it until they die and feel themselves slipping into hell. And Oh! What a tragedy, what sorrow, what grief to be among that number!

If we would be among the redeemed, those who experience the mercy which God shows to sinners, then we must be of those who love the habitation of God’s house. That is, we must love the church, the assemblage of God’s redeemed.

It is there, in the midst of grateful people worshipping Him Who saves them from the world, the flesh, and the devil, that God’s honor dwells. It is there that His Name is exalted, extolled and praised.

If we will not be counted and found in that number, then we will be gathered with sinners, bloody men, who practice mischievous deeds, who lie, deceive and bribe for personal advantage. These dishonor the God in Whose image they were created, blaspheme the Name of Him Who holds their very breath in His hand, and tread under foot the blood of the Savior Who died to redeem such as we all are.

May we then flee from such an evil crowd to the Christ Who receives repentant sinners and learn to love the household of the faithful.

-C.M.