

Places Where We Find God

P.S.42:I-3

Louis Ell

I was recently reading something that Dr. Ralph W. Sockman said. From him I got the gist of this message today. When you get a chance read things that he says.

U-1-BOYS
Some University boys were sitting in their club house, in a smoke filled room discussing various subjects. Their discussion soon turned to religion. It is right interesting to note that such a turn often comes in most discussion groups. They were kinder new in their scientific studies... They had been discussing the age of the earth in terms of millions of years and space in Light Years.... After a while one remarked.... "Such figures do away with a six foot God." They went on discussing subjects like "Is there a God?" "How can we prove His existence etc.?" "What is God Like?" But they went to bed and their sleep was undisturbed.

In contrast to this let us look at our text.... "As the hart panteth after the water brooks so panteth my soul for Thee O God.... My soul thirsteth for God for the living God.. My tears have been my meat day and night while they say continually unto me 'Where is Thy God?'"

It is one thing to argue about God's existence and another to thirst for Him. It is one thing to sit in a comfortable chair and a smoke filled room and talk about where He is and another to grope after Him in a world filled with the smoke of battles. A young man in the World War, as he started to go over the top said to the Chaplain... "What can you tell me about God right quick?" It is one thing to study about God as a first cause and then left it... and another to think of a God who is a VERY present help in time of trouble. *A N.T. 12.11*
word of God saved a golden life
When storms come and kill hundreds, Dictators arise and persecute innocent people in what we call God's world it is no wonder that people outside the church cry out.. "Where is thy God in these days?"

As people who really believe that there is a God let us look at some places where we find HIM.

I. We find Him revealed in the very act of searching for HIM. In the language of Dr, Sockman... Instead of looking for God let us look at the lookers."

What started man on the trail for God and what kept him on it?

The Savage man seemd to seek God because he was caught in the vice of fear....Storms over which he had no control... thunder that came crashing down out of the heavens led him to call on some higher force...

Though this may explain very well why he called on God.... how will we explain Calvin Coolidge going out to his mother's grave to pray when called to be President of the U.S.A.?

When the Pilgrims knelt on the shores of Holland before coming to America, it might be said that they did it because of the fear of the voyage....how then do you explain their declaring a day of thanksgiving after they were over the dread of the voyage? How do you explain General Foch (Marshall Foch it was) going to a shrine every morning to pray while the war went on? General Washington out in the grove praying before a battle.

It is not always fear that motivates man to go on the search for God....We may say that it is mans sense of his inadequacy. He feels the need of a higher power to assist him in the trials of this life. It is said that a modern man in moderate circumstances has, in modern conveniences, a force equal to 50 slaves working for him...yet he feels helpless in the face of it all.

In the physical world we explain the instincts by saying that they are in response to environment...the skin of the animal grows fur in response to the climate...the eye's sensitiveness to the light around it....Then this eternal longing for God is mans response to His presence..So we can say that God is in the hunger that sets men longing for Him.

2/ We see God revealed in people who live for Him or with Him. Parents that rear good children....Always some in each church. Some in each nation....Kagawa in Japan....Næmoller in Germany...The Lord taught Elijah that many were left that had not bowed to Baal.

Scientists who while peoples go about to kill others they quietly along in laboratory doing those things to prolong human life...Poets go on to keep up the beautiful.... Men of the street there is the milk of human kindness... As we find God in the good deeds of men.

3. We find God in the fidelity of nature. Carlyle was gloomy concerning man but he had a great faith in God. He makes one of his characters to say about nature after a storm,

" He that lives and loves in thee lives and loves in me."

Sydney Lanier one time at a low ebb in his personal fortunes threw himself on the ground in despair...he saw a violet pushing its way up through the grass...that violet became a ladder of faith up which he climbed back to God....As we see at the Thanksgiving season the harvest and so many provisions of life we must say that we see God in the fidelity of nature.

we find Him in the beauty of nature

4. We find God in the spirit of the Living Christ...During the closing days of the world war some statesman said "It is Christ or chaos." Twenty years have proved it to be so. Nietzsche, the German philosopher, said that any body who adopted Christ's principles would become weaklings and slaves but he himself died in a madhouse...Out of every conflict Jesus emerges as the one guide that can be trusted.

THIS CHRIST THAT KEEPS COMING BACK AFTER MEN BANISH HIM
WHO KEEPS RISING OUT OF THE RUINS OF WICKEDNESS
EVER BEING CRUCIFIED BUT WILL NOT DIE
HIS ONLY EXPLANATION IS THAT GOD IS WITH HIM AND IN HIM.

