

SOMETHING FOR YOU

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One of the saddest passages in Scripture is Psalm 142:4, "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul." A person certainly could be friendless and forsaken by man. Some etch over Psalm 142 the word "loneliness" to describe its contents. There are those for whom life holds no joy. But, the right place to turn in those times is to God.

The Psalmist next wrote, "I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me" (vv. 5-7). He saw hope and deliverance in God. It has been said, "The hour of trial is faith's opportunity to lay hold on the faithful God."

It truly is amazing how our infinitely holy God cares about even those who are yet in their sins and many of them are openly rebellious before Him. The Bible says, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8). The desire and design of the love of God is to draw sinners to Him as they are taught His will. Again, the Bible says, "[God] will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). No exceptions. Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:44-45).

The mission of the church of Christ is to express a dynamic and real part in bringing these truths to light in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere. Evangelism may correctly be explained in many ways, but a good way for those oppressed by the loneliness of living apart from God simply is to show them that He has something for them. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Romans 11:33-36).