

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

“Show me your ways”, the Psalmist writes. Men walk in the ways of the world. They lead to sadness and death. They lead to the exalting of men, to believing that man is capable of saving himself. But death is the barrier that confronts men. In the death of the sinner, the soul goes down to Sheol.

No man can escape death. And no man can save another from death. All men die. That is the way of men. So it is in the shadow of death that the Psalmist prays for another path, another road, another way, a way that leads to life, a way that leads not down, but up.

“Show me your ways...” These Words could just as easily be God’s exhortation to you, as you stand before Him to receive His judgment. “Show me your ways.” “Show me how you have lived.” It is not that God doesn’t know. He does. He knows all, He sees all. And still you must give an account. How have your “ways” been? Just? Holy? Righteous? God-pleasing? Or have your ways been darkness, lust, jealousy, doubt, flesh-pleasing, sinful ways? What will the Lord have seen you do when you stand before Him?

Consider His Commands: You should fear, love and trust in God before all things. The Name of God must be kept holy among you, which means that His Word is taught in its truth and purity. You should fear and love God that you do not despise preaching and His Word, but gladly hear and learn it – and then live by it. Have your words and your thoughts been in perfect accord with His Holiness?

Or have you been like the Psalmist... Have you done what God forbids? Have you lived to satiate your fallen desires? Repent. Put away the works of darkness. Demolish every argument and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. Pray with the Psalmist “Oh Lord... let me never be ashamed.”

Repent, and lift up your soul unto the Lord. For to lift up is to make offering. It is to commend your soul not unto your will, nor the ways of the fallen world, but into the Hands of the Lord, trusting in Him. For as the Prophet foretold of Old, it is the Lord alone that can say “the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me.” And where His Spirit is, there is forgiveness and life.

It is Christ alone that is the Anointed One. It is He that was sent to preach the Gospel to the poor, to lift up the downtrodden, to rescue souls from going down to Sheol, to bring heavenly riches to you who are impoverished by your sins, to answer you who call upon Him.

As the Prophet promised, Mary’s Son is the Coming One. He has come from above to heal the brokenhearted, to heal you whose heart is broken by your own depravity. He came down from heaven to proclaim liberty to the captives, to you held captive by your flesh. And in mercy, in grace, in love, He bids you pray “let me never be ashamed”, that your soul be lifted up.

So lift up your soul to the Coming One. Commend all things into God’s hands, trusting in Him. Pray as does the Psalmist, as by the Spirit’s power He foresees the Day of the Lord. Pray “O my

God, I trust in you...” Believe in Him. Find hope and comfort in Him. Be bold to pray “Let no one who trusts in You be ashamed.” For that is His promise, His promise to you.

You who trust in Him, you who believe in Him, you who pray to Him, you who are ashamed of your sins and desire to be cleansed, you who feel the great chasm between fallen men and the One Holy God, you who earnestly desire to walk in His Ways, to know His Paths, He has promised to hear your prayer.

He has promised to save you. He has promised to deliver you. He has promised that you will not be ashamed, for you are forgiven. You are justified. You are sanctified. And soon, you will be glorified, when He takes you to be where He is.

You are justified because His Blood was spilled for you. You are justified because He died in your stead, bearing your sins, enduring the wrath and punishment you have earned. He is the One Man that can save men from death. And that He does by dying for you. His Way was the Way of the Cross, the Way of Suffering. His path led to Calvary. His path led Him to commend His Spirit into the Father’s hands. Believing in Him, He opens to you the Way to heaven.

You are sanctified because He defeated death. You are sanctified because He gives His Spirit to be washed into you, to fill you, to lead you, and to comfort you. By His Spirit you are led on the right path, the straight path, the Way of Salvation.

So it is in joy and faith that you pray “Unto You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.” Your soul is lifted up because He who came down from above has saved you. Your soul is lifted up because the One who died and rose for you is exalted, just as the Prophets and the Psalmist foretold, just as the Coming One Himself promised.

But His Promise is more: You will be glorified because He endured shame and derision. You will be glorified because He endured the ignominy of a public accusation of guilt and humiliation. You will be glorified because He was forsaken of the Father. That is the liberty to which He has set you free. That is the healing He has given you – the forgiveness of all your sins.

So with confidence you pray “O my God, I trust in You.” For He is worthy of your trust. And trusting, believing, you have the forgiveness and life that He won. You have the eternity that won. You have the heaven in which He reigns, you have the joy that He alone can give, you have the strength to turn away from the paths of the world, you have the confidence that prays “O God, teach me Your paths.”

His paths bring you here, to His altar, to this place where the Coming One who came comes. It is to you who wait on Him that He comes to wait on you, to serve you Himself. He bids you eat the Body crucified and risen. He gives you the Blood shed to drink. You eat and drink, and your soul is lifted up, lifted up to the God in whom you trust, raised up in joy and peace and comfort and trust. For trusting in Him, eating and drinking Him, your soul is secure, and you will never be ashamed.

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