

The Scrutiny of God's Eyes

Psalm 17:1, 2
Charlie Brackett

Give attention, please, to the first two verses of the 17th Psalm:

Hear a just cause, O Lord, give heed to my cry;
Give ear to my prayer, which is not from deceitful lips.
Let my judgment come forth from Thy presence;
Let Thine eyes look with equity.

There is a strange mixture in David's thoughts of both boldness and humility, the two together being possible only in those who, like David, are striving to do the Lord's will. It is obvious that David first examined himself before laying his case before the Lord. He believes he has a just cause. He believes, further, that he can plead his case honestly; that He has neither fooled himself about his situation nor approached the Lord deceptively. And, he believes the Lord will listen to him. That, of itself, suggests that he has judged his life to be right with God.

Sinners don't pray to God. Practicing sinners don't want their lives scrutinized by God and, besides, God wouldn't listen anyway. So, as David begins to plead his case, he does so boldly, confident in the knowledge that he has done all he can do and his case will stand well under the scrutiny of God's eyes.

But more, he is confident in whom his God is and what He will do. He knows that God will hear his cry and give ear to him. And he knows that the Lord's judgment is available, and when it comes, it will come with equity.

But, though bold in his approach, he comes humbly. There can be no doubt of this for he comes with an attitude of complete submission, willing to allow the Lord's judgment to govern his life. He freely and unreservedly places himself under the penetrating scrutiny of the Creator. Such is the essence of humility, the willingness to be laid open and bare under the eye of One so righteous.

We also have access to the Father through Jesus Christ. We can plead our cause and He will hear our cry. We need only come honestly, willing to submit to the piercing scrutiny of His eyes, obedient to the judgments which come from His presence.