

**153 ¶ RESH. Consider my affliction and deliver me, For I do not forget Your law.**

**Consider: to see, look at**

**La 5:1** Remember, O LORD, what has come upon us; Look, and behold our reproach!

**God looks upon or considers man in various ways, and for different ends. To give him light; for "as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth" (Joh 9:1). To convert him; "He saw a man, named Matthew, sitting: and he says unto him, Follow me" (Mt 9:9). To restore him; "And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter" (Lu 22:61). To deliver him; "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt" (Ex 3:7). To advance him; "He has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden" (Lu 1:48): and to reward him; "The Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering" (Ge 4:4). --Hugh de St. Victor (1098-1141**

**Heb 2:17\*** Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**The church is the bush that burns with fire, but cannot be consumed; every member therefore must bear a part of the cross of Christ; they are never without some affliction**

**154 Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.**

**Job 5:8** "But as for me, I would seek God, And to God I would commit my cause—

**God is our contender "Fight my Fight"**

**1Jo 2:1\*** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**155 ¶ Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek Your statutes.**

**Distance through rebellion**

**Ro 3:11\*** There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

**Every step they have taken in the path of evil has removed them further from the kingdom of grace: they go from one degree of hardness to another till their hearts become as stone**

**Eph 2:17\*** And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

**What is it to be saved in the fullest and utmost meaning? Who can tell? Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard. It is a rescue, and from such a shipwreck! It is a rest, and in such an unimaginable home! It is to lie down for ever in the bosom of God, in an endless rapture of insatiable contentment. --Frederick William Faber, 1853.**

**156 ¶ Great *are* Your tender mercies, O LORD; Revive me according to Your judgments.**

**Romance: Great and tender**

### **1. Great: Beyond comprehension**

**Eph 3:18-19** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### **2. Tender: Full of comfort**

**2Co 1:3\*** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

**157 ¶ Many *are* my persecutors and my enemies, Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies.**

**Manifold mercies are here contrasted many difficulties**

**1Pe 5:7\*** casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

**Will we stay the course?**

**If they cannot make us sin they have missed their mark. Faithfulness to the truth is victory over our enemies**

**158 ¶ I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, Because they do not keep Your word.**

**Do we hate what is evil?**

**I never thought the world had been so wicked, when the Gospel began, as now I see it is; I rather hoped that every one would have leaped for joy to have found himself freed from the filth of the Pope, from his lamentable molestations of poor troubled consciences, and that through Christ they would by faith obtain the celestial treasure they sought after before with such vast cost and labour, though in vain. And especially I thought the bishops and universities would with joy of heart have received the true doctrines; but I have been lamentably deceived. Moses and Jeremiah, too, complained they had been deceived. --*Martin Luther*.**

**A righteous man cannot but be grieved at the sins of the wicked. He sees in them, --**

- 1. The violation of the divine law which he loves.**
- 2. Ungrateful rebellion against the God he worships.**
- 3. Contempt for the gospel of salvation and the blood of Christ.**
- 4. The dominion of Satan, the enemy of his God.**
- 5. The degradation of souls which might have been sacred temples.**
- 6. Prophetic signs of an awful, everlasting retribution.**

**159 ¶ Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness.**

**Look at my affliction becomes look at my affections**

**This is the confident appeal of one who was conscious that he was truly attached to God; that he really loved his law. It**

**Joh 21:17\*** He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

**160 ¶ The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.**

**From vanishing point to vanishing point**

**Since the beginning and forever more**

**Ro 3:4\*** Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar.