

## MAN WITHOUT GOD

What a wretched creature man is without God! No good thing dwells within him (Rom. 7:18) and the things of the Spirit of God are foolishness unto him (I Cor. 2:14). His heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). He is abominable and filthy and drinks iniquity like water (Job 15:16). He loves what he ought to hate and hates what he ought to love and his rebellious mind is enmity against God. He is not subject to the law of God and neither indeed can be (See Rom. 8:7), and consequently he is incapable of pleasing God.

Into this lost and ruined condition all men were plunged by the transgression of Adam in the Garden of Eden. And in that dreadful state all mankind would have remained forever if God had not sent forth the Spirit of His Son into the hearts of His people (See Gal. 4:6). No man can come to Christ otherwise; nor can he have any such desire. If he is not drawn by the Spirit of God he will never come (John 6:43,65).

In view of all this, how thankful should all those be who have the love of God abiding within their hearts. They could never have beheld His face in peace if Christ had not died for them and if He had never reached down His hand of mercy, lifting them up out of the dunghill of iniquity, and quickening them into divine light and life. Hell would have been their eternal doom if He had not shed abroad His love in their hearts and brought them to love His great name. They would never have known anything but contempt and hatred for Him if He had left them to their own will and way. Truly He has been merciful to His people. How blest are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for He gave them that hunger and thirst! "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name," etc. (Psalm 103:1-5).

—Elder Ralph Harris