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THE ONE WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DO

By: C. D. Cole

Hebrews 4:13, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

These words are a solemn and forceful reminder of a fact that multitudes seem to ignore; men shut their eyes to the fact that they have to meet God. There are many things that men ought to do, but so far as I know there is but one thing every man has to do. We sometimes hear it said that every man has to die, but this is a mistake, for many will never die. If our Lord should come to-night, there are many living who will never die. And when He does come, His people here will be translated, like Enoch and Elijah, and will not taste death.

But our text announces a universal truth; every man will have to have dealings with God. There is one with whom we have to do. We do not have to have dealings with any certain man or set of men. We can fall out with each other and shun each other’s company. Even brothers and sisters can fall out with one another, separate and never meet again, but no man can get so far away from God that he will never have to meet Him. We can get mad at the preacher and never hear him say another word, but we cannot get beyond the voice of God; one of these days He will summon men to judgment, and His voice will reach every ear and frighten every heart. Men listen to the call of God in the gospel and turn deaf ears to it, but there will be something in His voice, when He

calls them to judgment, that will bring them as trembling, yet obedient sinners, to His throne of judgment.

The Jews and Samaritans would have no dealings with each other, but both Jews and Samaritans will have to have dealings with God.

It is not a terrible thought that men leave out of their account the very one to whom they must give an account. They put off settling the very one with whom they will have to settle. We put off settling with men in hope that we will not have to settle with them, but there is no hope of escaping settlement with God. I tell you men and women, boys and girls, there is one with whom we must reckon; there is one whose call to repentance must be heeded or we will have to heed His command to depart into everlasting fire.

Let us first look at those represented by the pronoun “we” and then consider the one with whom we have to do.

“WE”

1. The “we” stands for every human being. There are no exceptions; rich and poor; bond and free; high and low; kings and peasants; every human being must meet God.

2. We are moral beings who have sinned against God, the creator, the ruler, and the lawgiver. Sin is universal among men. There is no fact more loudly proclaimed in the Bible than that every man has sinned against God. Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Ecclesiastes 7:20, “For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth

not.” Romans 5:12,19, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ...For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” All the world has been brought in guilty before God. Every man has been docketed in heaven’s court. Yea, every man has already been tried and found guilty.

3. We are ruined creatures. Sin has wrought terrible havoc with the human race. It has ruined every faculty of our being. It has made man the victim of a bad heart; Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Man has a proud heart and nothing to be proud of. He has a rebellious heart though a woe is pronounced upon him that striveth with his Maker. Man has an independent spirit, as if he could get along without God, and yet he is utterly dependent upon God for the air he breathes, the bread he eats, and the water he drinks. Sin has given man a carnal mind that hates God. Romans 7:6-7, “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.” Sin has given man a body that is frail and weak; a body that is being constantly riddled by distrust and turned by death

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into a heap of dust. Sin has given man a will that causes him to choose sin rather than holiness; Satan rather than God; salvation by false remedies rather than salvation through the one specific remedy for sin. "I am ruined," cried the man who has lost a fortune.

Let us now turn our thoughts from the creature to the creator; from sinful ones to the holy one; from ruined men to the glorious redeemer; from perishing people to the one who is from everlasting to everlasting; from the helpless to the one mighty to save. Who is this person with whom we have to do?

In nature He is a spirit being. He is invisible and intangible except as He makes himself visible in the form of a man. Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh. I Timothy 3:16, "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*" He said, "*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.*" John 14:9-11, "*Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works sake.*"

Some discount the fact of God's existence because they cannot see Him. But there are many things that we cannot see and yet we know they exist. Electricity is invisible to the eye of man but it is a mighty force. Gravitation is invisible but it operates mightily in the realm of nature.

A woman aviator denied the existence of God because she had been high up in the air and had never seen God.

God cannot be discovered by any of the laws of physics. Natural philosophy cannot find God. I Corinthians 1:21, "*For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of*

preaching to save them that believe." The fact of God can be known by mere intuition. But the character of God can only be known through the Bible.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

1. He is omniscient. All things naked and opened to Him with whom we have to do. Acts 15:18, "*Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*"

2. He is omnipotent. It is useless to strive without Him. Psalm 62:11, "*Also unto thee, O LORD, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.*" Psalm 33:6-12, "*By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done, he commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*"

3. He is omnipresent. His omnipresence means that God is everywhere. He is not bounded by space. There is no escape from Him for the wicked and no separation from Him for the righteous. This may be proven:

a. From His power, which is everywhere, as appears in creation and providence. Hebrews 1:3, "*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*"

b. From His knowledge. Hebrews 4:13, "*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*" Proverbs 15:3, "*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*"

The presence of God may be considered in different ways. He is not present everywhere in the same sense or way. His glorious presence is in heaven, where He displays Himself to angels and to the spirits of just men made perfect. His powerful and providential presence is with all His creatures, upholding them by the word of His power. His gracious presence is with His people, regenerating, sanctifying, comforting, and blessing them. His wrathful presence is in hell, inflicting punishment upon the wicked. Psalm 139:1-23, "*O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, o LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I*

awake, I am still with thee. Surely thou wilt say the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"

God's omnipresence is particularly and fully expressed in Psalm 139. This speaks of His essential presence. So immense is God that "...the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;..." I Kings 8:27. Isaiah 66:1, "Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:..."

4. He is just. Blessed truth for the believer the one for whom Christ died; terrible truth for the lost person. To the believer the justice of God means that he gets what Christ deserved; to the unbeliever it means that he will get what the sinner deserves.

5. He is love. God's love is immutable. God changeth not and there can be no change in His love. Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." But whom does He love? He loves sinners. Here is hope for fallen men. If God loves sinners then, I as a sinner, might have hope that He loves me. If I love Him then I can be assured that He loves me, for "we love Him because He first loved us." Why does he love sinners? None can answer. I John 4:7-11, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

6. He is patient. This explains why

sinners are not already crushed by His mighty hand. God's patience is greatly abused.

The exercise of this attribute leads men to sin more boldly. Ecclesiastes 8:11, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Men confound the patience of God with their belief in His non-existence. Because they sin and get by with it for a time, they conclude there is no moral lawgiver to whom they must give account.

A farmer thought he had proven there is no God. He selected a certain piece of ground on his farm for an experiment. He broke the ground on Sunday, he planted the seed on Sunday, he did all the cultivating on Sunday, and on the first Sunday in October he reaped a larger harvest than on any other part of the farm. He wrote to his newspaper editor the results of his experiment, scoffing at the idea of any God. The editor replied briefly but to the point in these words: "May I remind you that God does not settle His accounts on the first Sunday in October."

Bob Ingersol thought he had demonstrated there is no God when he challenged Him and gave Him five minutes by the watch to strike him dead. When a great preacher in England heard what the upstart had done, he remarked: "Does the gentleman from America think he can exhaust the patience of God in five minutes?"

If the believer does not understand this attribute of longsuffering, he will fretfully wonder why God does not crush His enemies and put an end to so much wickedness. Blessed be His Name! He will, but in longsuffering waits for His purposes to ripen. And while He waits some are fitting themselves to destruction, and some are being fashioned by His grace to be vessels of glory.

7. He is a sovereign. Psalm 115:3, "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."

The meaning of sovereignty. The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. God is the one supreme and independent being. He is the only one in all the universe

who has the right and the power to do absolutely as He pleases. "He sits on no precarious throne, nor borrows leave to be." He is the only one who has the right to act for His own glory. The sovereignty of God means that He does as He pleases, always as He pleases, and only as He pleases. God is in control of all things and people, and is directing all things after His own will and to the praise of His own glory. Psalm 76:10, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain."

There is no alternative between an absolute sovereign God and no God at all. A man once wrote that he believed God was a sovereign, but not an absolute sovereign. A woman once talked of two supreme beings. But we believe in a sovereign God whose will is not subject to veto by His creatures.

God has provided a salvation for sinners. Everything a sinner needs has been provided by God in Jesus Christ. 1. A perfect righteous life, a life without sin. 2. He is a substitute for the sinner that will repent toward God and receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. 3. He suffered for sins; the just for the unjust that he might reconcile us to God. 4. He died for our sins and was buried and raised the third day. When you believe on Jesus and receive him, everything he did is imputed to you. Romans 3:21-24, "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"

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