

The Psalms of Ascents

Week 5 – Saturday

Phil. 3:13-14 – Footnotes 13¹, 13², 13³

Never consider that you have attained something or have something. Our Lord was equal with God, in God's glory in heaven, yet He emptied Himself. He emptied all the things that He had, taking the form of a slave in order to come and save us (Phil. 2:5-7). Paul also testified, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (3:13-14). This means that he forgot everything that he was before, everything that he gained before, and everything that he attained before. He would not allow anything to make him proud. He forgot all the things that were behind and stretched forward to the things before. What does that mean? It means that he wanted to be always fresh in his experience of Christ. He left everything that he had behind so that he would not be holding onto anything old. This means that he was humble person.

This is the same testimony that David gave us in Psalm 131. Even though there are only three verses in this psalm, the revelations in these verses are very precious. David said, "My heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty" (v. 1). The most deeply hidden things in a man's heart, unknown to anyone else, are revealed through his eyes. We can suppress what is in our heart by forcing ourselves not to speak. Indeed, at times we can manage to tame our tongues in order not to speak. But our eyes, which are the window of our whole person, can reveal every condition of our heart. A person with a proud heart is the one with lofty eyes. In his eyes, he has no regard for anyone. Conversely, a person without a haughty heart does not have lofty eyes that can't be hidden. Your eyes always expose the condition of your heart. Sometimes we say that someone's eyes are lofty. Even when he walks he looks upward because he is proud because he attained to a certain level. Perhaps he has some wealth or something else that others don't have. Then his eyes seem to be on top of his head. It is very difficult to hide things in one's eyes; they expose a man's inward condition. David said, "...nor my eyes lofty." You cannot tell in his eyes all the high things that he attained. This is the condition of a humble person.