

The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print, Isa 51:1

Collected by Dean Brown



Special Issue for October 6, 2019.

The Culture We Live In, I.

The Love of God: Sanitized, Democratized, Sentimentalized.

If people believe in God at all today, the overwhelming majority hold that the God ... is a loving being. But that is what makes the task of the Christian witness so daunting. For this widely disseminated belief in the love of God is set with increasing frequency of some [cultural framework] other than biblical theology. The result is that when informed Christians talk about the love of God, they mean something very different from what is meant in the surrounding culture. Worse, neither side may perceive that this is the case. ...

We live in a culture in which many other and complementary truths about God are widely *disbelieved*. I do not think what the Bible says about the love of God can long survive at the forefront of our thinking if it is abstracted from the sovereignty of God, the holiness of God, the wrath of God, the providence of God, or the personhood of God ...

The result of course, is that the love of God in our culture has been purged of anything the culture finds uncomfortable. The love of God has been sanitized, democratized, and above all sentimentalized. ...

It has not always been so. In generations when almost everyone believed in the justice of God, people sometimes found it difficult to believe in the love of God. ... Nowadays if you tell people that God loves them, they are unlikely to be surprised. **Of course God loves me ... I'm kind of cute**, or at least as nice as the next person. I'm okay, you're okay, and God loves you and me.

D. A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*, Crossway
2000. [That *does not make it an old book*
like the ones I often quote here.] In the church library.

To Be Continued.