

# 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, <sup>Isa 51:1</sup>

Collected by Dean Brown



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## **The Culture We Live In, II.**

The Transcendent, Majestic, Awesome God: A Softening of Demeanor.

Today most people seem to have little difficulty believing in the love of God; they have far more difficulty believing in the justice of God, the wrath of God, and the ... truthfulness of an omniscient [knowing all] God.

We must not think that Christians are immune from these influences. In an important book, Marsha Witten surveys what is being preached in the Protestant pulpit. [She studied example sermons] from the Presbyterian Church (USA) ... and churches belonging to the Southern Baptist Conventions. There is a powerful tendency “to present God through characterizations of his inner states, with an emphasis on his emotions. ... God is more likely to ‘feel’ than ‘act,’ to ‘think’ than to ‘say’ ... [There is] an almost complete lack of [careful] construction of **anxiety around one’s future state**.... Even when directly referring to the unconverted, only two sermons press on fear of God’s judgment by depicting anxiety over salvation. ...

“The transcendent, majestic, awesome God of Luther and Calvin ... has undergone a softening of demeanor through the American experience of Protestantism, with only minor exceptions. ...” [In view of such things, observe the great importance of studying **the attributes of God**, as has been going on at **Cornerstone for the ladies on Tuesday mornings**.]

With such sentimentalizing of God multiplying in Protestant churches, it does not take much to see how difficult maintaining a biblical doctrine of the love of God can be.

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

**To Be Continued.**

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<sup>1</sup> *All is Forgiven: The Secular Message in American Protestantism*, Princeton, 1993.