

20 A CONTINUAL RESORT

Psalms 71:3 Be my strong refuge, to which I may resort continually...

Colossians 3:3-4 ...your life is hidden with Christ in God... Christ who is our life...

Here is a resort of a different kind from our normal use of the word with reference to either:

- A place we go to on vacation for relaxation; or
- An option we would rather not consider if we can help it.

God is neither a holiday resort, nor a last resort, but a continual resort to those who are His. This is the place we should frequent to find rest and refreshment for our souls. Instead, we often go everywhere else but to God, until we have exhausted our efforts or run out of options. It is not our spiritual homing instinct. Yet God should be our first and continual resort, not our last or occasional resort. We need to develop this ready reflex of resorting to God.

Where is this refuge or habitation to be found? It is in the place where God lives. He has come to make His dwelling place by the Holy Spirit in those who have trusted Christ. So it is not so much an external, physical resorting in the first instance, but an internal and spiritual one. We enter into it through an actual and habitual coming apart to be alone with God. Jesus continually communed with the Father through a daily discipline of meeting God the first thing in the morning before the day's agenda. *"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed"* (Mark 1:35.) We can only cultivate such instinctive and habitual resorting to God through a regular set time and place of trysting with Him in prayer and reading His Word. God may be resident in us as a fact, but unless we spend time to commune with Him, we do not enjoy the fruit of that fellowship in experience.

It is this hiding of our life with Christ that manifests the Christ-life to those around us (*Colossians 3:3-4*). There is a mutual abiding of Christ in me, and I in Christ. As we make time and effort to nurture this hidden life in Him, we shall reap the reality of knowing His supremacy in experience. It is *"in Him we live and move and have our being"* (Acts 17:28), not in anyone or anything else. Like the submerged nine-tenths of the iceberg we do not see, so this hidden habitation provides the ballast to keep us floating stable and upright. *"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"* (Proverbs 4:23). What is visible to others on the outside is but a projection of our deeper true selves. We often pay too much attention to the visible 10% above the waterline to the neglect of the hidden 90% below the waterline which may be out of men's sight but not God's.