



Ether 3.²— Meditation

²O Lord, thou hast said that we must be encompassed about by the floods. Now behold, O Lord, and do not be angry with thy servant because of his weakness before thee; for we know that thou art holy and dwellest in the heavens, and that we are unworthy before thee; because of the fall our natures have become evil continually; nevertheless, O Lord, thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee, that from thee we may receive according to our desires.

“Nevertheless.” Even under normal circumstances, it’s a long word, what with its 12 letters and 3 words rolled into one. But in its present context, it is whoppingly huge. God, the petitioner knows, is “holy.” There is no one to compare. This incomparable God lives in a realm that is unfathomably large and complex to the human mind. On the other hand, the petitioner knows all too well the “weakness” that dwells within himself and that is so evident to that Holy One.

As to his own nature, that same petitioner must confess, as a matter of fact and objective truth, that it is “evil continually.” So how does such a one become a petitioner of the Holy One? How can he approach God in any degree of faith and hope? How does he dare to ask that Holy Being for anything—great or small—with an expectation of obtaining? He can dare because he has heard and well understood that one, big word: “nevertheless.”

Notwithstanding (another long, multi-word wrap) our nature, God has generously invited us to approach him and make our desires known. This invitation is accompanied by the promise that he will hear and respond. While our deeds, our acts, our works may not warrant a response, our desires do. Oh, how very hard it is to wrap our brains around such divine extravagance. And with that, we end our little meditation as we began it... with another big, 12 letter word: extravagance.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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