

## *Spoiling of my Soul*

“Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul. False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the *spoiling of my soul*. Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.”

**Psalm 35:1, 7, 11, 12, and 21**

Have you ever been the object of undeserved malice?

Have you been attacked in name and reputation?

### **A slander attack injures the soul!**

1. Puts a man into a warring attitude
2. Endangers his peace of mind
3. Imperils his enjoyment of quiet contemplation
4. Tends to interrupt his communion with God

Thus the spiritual nature is despoiled and suffers bereavement. - C. H. S.

**Question** – Why does God permit wicked people to lay to the charge of the godly such things as they are clear of: God if he pleased could prevent it, stop the mouths of the wicked, that they should not be able to speak against his children?

**Answer** – As all things work for the best to them that love God, so this works for the good of God’s people. God does permit it for the good of his people, and thus he frustrates the hopes of the wicked: they intend evil against the godly, and God disposes of it for good.

### **The 5 – Fold Good God Brings**

1. ↑ Humility – Causes them to examine what is amiss: so that though they are clear of that crime laid to their charge, yet they will then search their hearts, and walk more humbly, and cleave more closely to the Lord.

2. ↑ Prayer – Causes them to more often be upon their knees, to earnestly seek unto him, to plead their cause, and to clear their innocency. How often did the prophet make his moan at the throne of grace unto God, beseeching him to plead his cause, and keep him close in his way, that the wicked might not rejoice at his downfall!

3. ↑ Watchfulness – Uses as a preventive medicine against that crime which was laid to their charge. If the wicked joy at a brat of their own hatching, then they consider; if the wicked thus joy without a cause, what would they do if they had just cause? Well by the help of God this shall be a warning to me forever to watch against that sin!

4. ↑ Dependence – Exercises the graces of his people by letting them undergo bad report as well as good report to test whether they will cleave close to him in all conditions as Psalm 44:15-17.

5. ↑ Discernment – Teaches how to judge of others when falsely accused. For the time to come they will not receive a false report against their neighbor; they will know the truth of a thing before they believe it, and they know how to comfort others in the like condition.

Thus God disposes of it for good, and thus God makes the wicked the servant of his people in that very thing which the wicked think to wrong them most in; for he uses the wicked as the rod and wisp, to scour off the rust of their graces and to correct their security; and when the rod has done its office then it is thrown into the fire: and thus you see how God disposes of the wicked's false accusations of his people for good.



*There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin sick soul.*

**The Good Shepherd  
restores the soul (Psalm 23:3).**

