

## PSALM 6

This psalm, though it stands among the first in the book, was written toward the close of David's life, at a period of bodily sickness augmented by the malicious joy which it afforded his enemies. David's sickness of body appears to have been accompanied by sincere contrition of soul for the sins he had committed; and herein this psalm becomes instructive to every Christian. It is good for us all to be in trouble, that we may call our own ways to remembrance. Let us not, then, be weary of the chastisements of the Lord, when he is pleased to send them upon us. Let us only pray that they be not sent upon us in displeasure. Let us be assured that continual prosperity is not good for any man; that as God's children we need reproof and correction. And if we take them patiently, if they bring forth contrition and repentance, then will faith speak comforting words to our souls and point us to the cross of Christ. At the cross we are assured of the pardon of our sins, and this will elevate our hearts and minds to those realms of everlasting light where sin, sickness, and sorrow shall be no more.

**For the choir director; with stringed instruments, upon an eight-string lyre. A Psalm of David.**

- 1 O YAHWEH, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.
- 2 Be gracious to me, O YAHWEH, for I am languishing;  
heal me, O YAHWEH, for my bones are troubled.
- 3 My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O YAHWEH—how long?
  
- 4 Turn, O YAHWEH, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
- 5 For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?
  
- 6 I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears;  
I drench my couch with my weeping.
- 7 My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.
  
- 8 Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for YAHWEH has heard the sound of my weeping.
- 9 YAHWEH has heard my plea; YAHWEH accepts my prayer.
- 10 All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;  
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

### PRAYER

*O most merciful God, who chastens us when we need correction but who is ever ready to have mercy and forgive, behold with the eyes of pity and compassion the state of your humble servants. Hear the voice of our weeping, and pity our groaning.*

*Strengthen us, for we are weak. Turn from the severity of your displeasure and visit us with an assurance of your mercy and salvation. Give us great sorrow and contrition for all our sins, and in all our adversities let your comfort sustain us. This we humbly beg for the sake and through the merits of him upon whom has been laid the burden of our sins, whose soul was thereby rendered exceedingly sorrowful even unto death, Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.*