

# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

Collected by Dean Brown



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## **The Universal Need. The Divine Provision.**

Among all peoples of the world, we encounter a sense of sin and misery, and all feel the need and a hope for redemption. Optimism is powerless to override the first fact and to completely reconcile human beings to themselves and to the world. Pessimism, however, never succeeds in undoing the second fact and in eradicating hope for the future from the human heart. ...

According to the New Testament, all [the] different testimonies of the law and the prophets culminate in Christ. ... He is the servant of the Lord who as a slave came to serve, submitted to the law, fulfilled all righteousness, and was obedient to death on the cross. ... Christ *had to* enter glory through suffering.

The work that Christ now accomplishes in the state of humiliation is described in the New Testament from many different angles. It is the work that the Father gave him to do; generally speaking, it consisted in doing God's will ... , the revelation and glorification of his name, the communication of God's words, and so on. Christ is a prophet, mighty in words and deeds ... . [He] proclaims the gospel, and both preaches himself as the fulfiller of the [law] and the content of the [gospel]. He is the law and the gospel in his own person.

Herman Bavinck,  
*Reformed Dogmatics,*  
*Vol 3: Sin and Salvation in Christ,* c. 1898;  
tr. to English 2006. p. 327, 337.

Almost every phrase here is accompanied by a scripture reference.

**To be continued.**