

Example Three: concerning enmity against God:

(a) New Testament characterization of the unregenerate state:

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

(Romans 5:10)

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God"

(Romans 8:7a)

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled."

(Colossians 1:21)

(b) Old Testament characterization of the state of the believer:

"I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications."

(Psalm 116:1)

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

(Psalm 34:1)

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

(Psalm 34:3)

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

(Psalm 34:8)

"But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend."

(Isaiah 41:8)

"And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

(James 2:23)

In this example, the unregenerate man is portrayed as an enemy of God whose general state and specific attitudes of mind are at enmity with the holy character and specific purposes of God. But the believers characterized by the second class of scriptures are viewed as friends of God, lovers of God, those who bless, praise, magnify, and exalt the Lord. It is inconceivable that the latter characteristics could be attributed to persons in the former state.