

Thursday 22 April 2021

Ps.34,5: *“Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.”*

Rom.12,12: *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

Who are “those who look to the Lord” but they who are weak, helpless, “poor in spirit” (Mt.5,3), who tremble at God’s word and see little reason to boast about their own strength and understanding, who know of the deceitfulness of sin?

For why otherwise would they acknowledge Jesus, who in weakness died on a cross and was raised from the dead, as “Lord and Saviour”? For what in themselves they take pride in does not turn their eyes and heart to him, nor the ways and desires of their own will, but only sorrow over their sinfulness and need for God’s mercy.

In this self-conscious need of God’s mercy found in Jesus Christ, they are radiant in that God’s blessing rests on them – help is promised. May others laugh at such confidence (often sustained under tears and struggles!), what does it matter? God owns it. To Him is honour what to the world is shame.