

PSALM 12
“Help, Lord!”

- 1. Help (“save, deliver”) For the godly are no more; the faithful have vanished from among men.**
 - a. Everyone lies to his neighbor, their flattering (“smooth”) lips speak with deception.
 - It can seem that way but reality is almost always different - 1 King 18:2b-4, 13, 22; 1 King 19:14-18.
 - We can get weary in doing well, get our eyes off of God and focus on problems and easily feel overwhelmed (2 Pet1:3-11).
 - b. David asks God to cut off all flattering lips and boastful tongues who stand in arrogance.

- 2. God will arise to protect the weak and needy in their oppression. Vengeance is His (Dt 32:39-42).**
 - a. He would protect them from those who malign them (Lev 19:15, Dt 24:17, Ps 82).
 - b. His words are flawless and pure (and He has the last word. Always! Prv 30:5-6)

- 3. David closes with a declaration of confidence in God’s protection.**

- 4. The wicked “strut about” when what is vile is honored among men (Is 5:19-21).**
 - a. He wants God to act because if the wicked get away with their crimes it emboldens other to evil. Left unchecked it will change a society’s values.
 - b. Not only does it embolden others but the wicked get worse and more open about their depravity when there is delayed or omitted retribution (Ecc 8:11).

PSALM 13
“How Long?”

- 1. David apparently undergoing hardship asks, “Will you forget me forever?”**
 - a. “How long will you hide your face from me?”
 - b. “How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?” (Prv 3:5-6)
 - c. “How long will my enemy triumph over me?”
“Although God is faithful and never ignores His people, from our flawed vantage point it can seem like He does. Prov 14:10 comments on the fact that each person’s joy or pain is their own. They and God alone understand it.

- 2. David calls out to God to look on him and answer**
 - a. He asks for light lest he die.
 - b. He asks for help lest his enemies triumph and celebrate His misfortune. (“schadenfreude” - pleasure derived from another’s misfortune. See Prov 17:5, 24:17-18.)
 - c. David declares his dependence on the Lord’s unfailing love and salvation (Is 12:2, Jer 17:14).

- 3. In the midst of trials, David praises His God and King for the goodness**
 - a. Praise is an act of faith (1 Thess 5:17)
 - b. Praise is a declaration of trust and dependence.
***How do you praise Him? What prompts your worship?
Is it contingent or is it an act of faith? Or both?***

