

PSALM 12:1-8

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"His words are as pure as well-refined silver; they are truth, . . ."

(Ps. 12:1) Help, LORD, for the godly man ceaseth! The death, departure, or decline of the godly should be a trumpet call for more prayer. Fish smell first at the head, and when the godly decay the nation will soon rot. We must not, however, be rash in our judgment. Elijah erred in counting himself the only servant of God alive, but the Lord held thousands in reserve (1 Kings 19:18).

The faithful fail from among the children of men. When godliness goes, faithfulness disappears. Without the fear of God, people have no love of the truth. Common honesty is no longer common when common contempt of religion leads to universal godlessness.

(Ps. 12:4) They boastfully cry to God, Who is lord over us?, but they fail to hear the hollow voice of the evil one crying from the infernal lake, "I am your lord, and faithfully you serve me." Poor fools, their pride and glory will be cut off like a fading flower! May God grant that our souls are not gathered with them.

(Ps. 12:5) "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now I will arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him." In due season the Lord will hear His elect who cry day and night. Although He is long-suffering with their oppressors, He will speedily avenge them. The

mere oppression of saints, however silently they bear it, is a cry to God. Moses was heard at the Red Sea, though he said nothing (Ex. 14:1). Hagar's affliction was heard despite her silence (Gen. 16:7, 8). Jesus sympathizes with His people; their pains are mighty orators with Him.

(Ps. 12:6) The words of the LORD are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. What a contrast between the worthless words of man and the pure words of Jehovah. Man's words are yes and no. The Lord's promises are yes and amen. His words are as pure as well-refined silver; they are truth, certainty, holiness, and faithfulness.

Would to God that the glory and triumph of our Lord Jesus would encourage us to walk and work on every side. Since an exalted sinner encourages sinners, our exalted Redeemer must surely cheer and stimulate His saints. Nerved by a sight of His reigning power, we meet the evils of the times in the spirit of holy resolution. We hopefully pray, "Help, LORD." (The Treasury of David, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

In Psalm 12:1 the Psalmist asks for help. **"The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted."** (Ps. 12:8). What is needed to keep our mind on the Lord as the

treachery of man rages against us? Ps. 12:6-7

1 John 5:19

We think of wicked men as murders, robbers, mean, physically abusive people but could the wicked also include those wealthy and influential people who have unsanctified minds and walk proudly in what they have achieved? Ps. 12:2-4