

Psalms – Words to Live By

Psalm 12

Words and Reality – Verse 1

- A plea for salvation, for God's help
- There is a correspondence between words and reality – what we speak, and how we speak, is an indication of who and what we are **Luke 6:43-45 ESV**

Words and Wickedness – Verse 2-4

- There is some wicked speech: lies, false flattery, duplicitous words, arrogant boasting
- Plumer: “..as society forsakes God, it becomes hollow; hollowness requires deception to disguise its baseness; and so instead of hearty good wishes we hear idle compliments instead of serious profitable discourse we have froth and vanity.”
- Plumer: “How dismal are the prospects of the wicked. All their hopes rest on the most monstrous errors, such as that God does not care what they do, and that their tongues are omnipotent, v 4. Because for awhile they can make a lie pass for a truth, they hope to do so always, but they shall be sorely disappointed. A day is coming when eloquence will all be vain.”

Words and God – Verse 5-6

- There are two things that seem to motivate Yahweh: 1) devastation of the weak and needy, and 2) the groaning of the weak and needy
- God's pure words:
 - Clarity: The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it.

Words and Response – Verse 7-8

- David has confidence in God's words – not subjective confidence but confidence based on the factual experience of seeing God keep his words

A Pattern in Psalm 12

Problem: *the godly one is gone, the faithful have vanished, Everyone utters lies, they speak with flattering lips and a double heart, the tongue makes great boasts, they say “ who is master over us?”, the poor are plundered, the needy groan*

Promise: *“I will now arise,” says the LORD; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.”*

Provision: *You, O LORD, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever.*

The Gospel Pattern

Problem

Genesis 3:1-7 ESV, Romans 1:18, 28-32 ESV

Promise

Adam and Eve: **Genesis 3:13-15 ESV**

Abraham: **Genesis 12:1-3 ESV**

Judah: **Genesis 49:1, 10 ESV**

David: **2 Samuel 7:12-13 ESV**

Pre-Exile: **Micah 5:2-5 ESV**

Provision

Luke 2:8-11 ESV