

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

THE WORDS OF MEN AND THE WORD OF GOD

PSALMS 12

Text:

Introduction:

What we listen to can have great influence over our thinking and behavior.

David's enemies were speaking words of hatred, malice, and contempt.

The beginning of the psalm declares the painful words of the enemy, but the ending of the psalm shows the powerful preserved Word of God.

Note:

1. PRAYERFUL WORDS OF DAVID (VS. 1)

Psalm 12:1

1 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

Notice:

A. His Plea – “*Help Lord*”

The word help means to save, to deliver, to rescue.

This is a very simple and short request – sometimes we just need to cry out Help Lord.

Notice not only his plea but also:

B. His Problem – “*for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail among the children of men*”

David feels as though he is all alone in an unrighteous environment.

The godly man no longer exists and the faithful have aligned themselves with sinners – in this David needed the Lord for help.

Note not only the Prayerful Words of David but also:

2. PAINFUL WORDS OF MEN (VS. 2-4)

Psalm 12:2-5

² *They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.*

³ *The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: ⁴ Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?*

A. Their Words Are Empty – *“They speak vanity everyone with his neighbor”*

The word vanity means to be empty, shallow, and meaningless

Many today speak similar words - having nothing good to say, but they are busy saying it.

B. Their Ways Are Evil – *“With a double heart do they speak”*

Remember a double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

These people because of the condition of their mind and heart speak out both sides of their mouths.

They do much damage with the words they use.

Note not only the Prayerful Words of David and the Painful Words of Men but lastly:

3. POWERFUL WORD OF GOD (VS. 5-7)

Psalm 12:5-7

⁵ For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him. ⁶ The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. ⁷ Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Note:

A. They Are Promising Words (vs. 5)

Psalm 12:5

⁵ For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

The Lord will defend those who are being exploited by the wicked men.

The word puffeth means to scoff.

Note not only the promising words but also:

B. They Are Pure Words (vs. 6)

Psalm 12:6

⁶ *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

There is not a speck of dross in the words and promises of God.

His words are as pure as gold.

Note not only the promising and pure words but also:

C. They Are Protected Words (vs. 7)

Psalm 12:7

⁷ *Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*

The word “keep” is the same word to describe a jailor who watches over his prisoner, he “keeps” him.

Note not only the promising, pure, and protected words but also:

D. They Are Preserved Words (vs. 7)

Psalm 12:7

⁷ *Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*

The picture here is much like the preservation of food – The Lord prepared it, and preserved it in such a way that it is good for every generation.

Matthew 5:18

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Close:

We can and should trust the Word of God for every issue of life .

The words of the wicked men fail, but God's Words stand forever.