HELP, LORD

**DATE: 10/16/2011 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 12:1**

**INTRODUCTION**

In schools today, what once was called “Home Economics” is now “The Studies of Applied Life Sciences”

We don’t have to worry about Potholes anymore,

Because they're now known as “pavement deficiencies”

In politics, new taxes are only “revenue enhancements”

In the military, what was once known as a “retreat”

Is now “backloading of augmentation personnel”

If, while you're “backloading”, you get shot,

The bullet hole is a “ballistically induced aperture in the subcutaneous environment”

This kind of artificial evasive language is known as *“double-speak”*

And its popularity is found almost in every area of society

It’s evidence, that language and communication are in serious trouble

Our ability to speak and write words is a gift of God,

And this Psalm deals with the right and wrong use of that gift

Let’s pray and look at 3 things from this Psalm that will answer David request of –

***“Help, LORD”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “RIGHTEOUS AND DESPAIRING” WORDS – v.1**

***“Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men”***

In **Psalm 11**, we saw that the foundations of society were beginning to crumble **– v.3**

***“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”***

And in this **Psalm** David cries out for help – ***“Help, LORD”***

Why? because the godly remnant of faithful believers were disappearing

***“for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail”***

This wasn't the complaint of an old man longing for *“the good old days”*

Instead, the cry of a truly faithful servant of God …

Who, wanted to see his nation, Israel, fulfill her divine purpose

What is/was Israel’s purpose?

To reveal God to a lost and dying world

First notice -

**A.** **The failure of Israel** …

It was due to the faithfulness of only a few persons within the nation of Israel that we now have a Saviour

Their faithfulness gave us Jesus Christ

**Genesis 12:1-3**

David now voices his concern about what is happening

David wasn't alone (in voicing his concern)

Elijah thought he was the only faithful prophet left

**I Kings 18:22 – *“Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men”***

**I Kings 19:10, 18 – *“And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away”***

God answered Elijah’s concern

***“Yet I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him”***

Isaiah

**Isaiah 57:1 – *“The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away,”***

Micah

**Micah 7:2 – *“The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net”***

These all expressed their concern at the absence of the righteous

**B.** **The Failure of the Church**

When Paul wrote **I Timothy**, he lamented over what **“*some”*** were doing in the church

**I Timothy 1:3, 6, 19; 4:1; 5:15; 6:10**

But in **II Timothy**, that **“*some”*** had become ***“all”***

**II Timothy 1:15; 4:16**

**C.** **The Tragedy today**

One of the tragedies today is that a new generation of believers (so-called) doesn't seem to know what it takes to be godly

So they borrow all kind of ideas from secular society

And the outcome is all kinds of unequipped and unqualified people becoming leaders

**THE “RIGHTEOUS AND DESPAIRING” WORDS**

**II. THE “WICKED AND DECEPTIVE” WORDS – vs. 2-4**

One mark of a Spirit-filled believer is the ability to detect lies and liars and then to avoid them

**I John 2:18-29**

David knew that he was living in a society controlled by deception

It wasn't that only a few people were telling lies;

Deception was a major characteristic of the whole society

**Psalm 5:9, 28:3, 34:13, 55:21, 141:3**

What would David say if he were alive today? …

And witnessed the propaganda and promotion that goes on in what we casually call “the media”

He would probably describe today's “communications” as he did centuries ago –

***“vanity”*** - empty and useless words

***“flattery”*** - smooth talk

***“double hearts”*** - double-talk

***“proud words”*** - boastful talk

Saul used *lies* to deceive his leaders about David

Absalom used *flattery* to poison the minds of the naive people of Israel against his father

Flattery is not communication, it's manipulation

**Proverbs 26:28 – *“A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin”***

**Proverbs 28:23 – *“He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue”***

Even in Christianity it's possible to use flattery to influence people and exploit them

**I Thessalonians 2:1-6**

**Acts 20:28-31**

Flattery plays on the ego …

And especially influences people who want to appear important

**Jude 11**

3 names of the OT are mentioned here – Cain, Balaam, and Korah

The way of Cain is religion without Faith

The way of Balaam is merchandising one's gifts and ministry just for the purpose of making money

The way of Korah is rebellion against authority

These were all men who flattered –

Themselves

**Psalm 36:2 – *“For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful”***

Rather than fear God, sinful men exalt themselves in their own minds

Such arrogance soon becomes obnoxious

The very words of their mouths indict them

Others

**Psalm 5:9 – *“For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue”***

Our Text says **v. 2 – “*They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak”***

God

**Psalm 78:34-37**

Of course, out of the ***“abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”***

**Matthew 12:33-37**

And that's why David accuses these liars of duplicity,

That is a divided heart

David calls it a ***“a double heart”*** (literally "2 hearted”)

**James 1:8 – *“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”***

This is the opposite of the ***“perfect heart”*** …

Is Loyalty to God and His truth

**Psalm 86:11 – *“Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name”***

**I Chronicles 12:38 – *“All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king”***

**Romans 16:17, 18 – *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them”
“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”***

As for ***“proud words”***

This describes boastful speech that tries to impress people

***“Great swelling words”*** is the phrase used by Peter and Jude

**II Peter 2:18 – *“For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness,”***

**Jude 16 – *“These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage”***

Daniel and John both tell us that the Antichrist will speak in this way and rule the world

**Daniel 7:25 – *“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time”***

**Revelation 13: 5 – *“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months”***

This kind of speech is motivated by pride

It is used by people who think they're in control

People who think that they will never need to answer to anybody, including the Lord

**V.4 – *“Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?”***

**THE “RIGHTEOUS AND DESPAIRING” WORDS**

**THE “WICKED AND DECEPTIVE” WORDS**

**III. THE “LORD AND DELIVERING” WORDS – vs. 5-8**

God sees the oppression of the weak and hears the pain in their cries

**Exodus 3:7 – *“And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;”***

He declares that He will arise and judge the liars and deceivers

**v.5 – *“For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD;”***

God says in the middle of **v.5 - *“I will arise”***

Let’s look back and see that this is not an obscure promise

**Psalm 3:7 – *“Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly”***

**Psalm 9:19 – *“Arise, O Lord; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight”***

**Psalm 10:12 – *“Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble”***

***“Safety”*** in **v.5** is our protection

God responses to David’s call for ***"help"***

Jesus’ name means *"Jehovah is salvation"*

When God comes to deliver His people,

He will ***"cut off"*** (**v.3**) those who practice flattery and deception

And when someone is ***“cut off”*** it means they are separated from God

Like the separation of the goats from the sheep in -

**Matthew 25:31-33**

But can the Lord's promises be trusted? Yes!

Unlike the worthless words of the deceivers,

The Word of the Lord is like precious silver

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

That is heated seven times in the crucible before it is poured out into the mold

**Psalm 19:9, 10 – *“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether”
“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb”***

His Word is *Flawless and can be Trusted*

His Word is *Precious and must be Valued*

**Psalm 119:14, 72, 127, 162 – *“I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches”***

***“The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver”***

***“Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold”***

***“I rejoice at Thy word, as one that findeth great spoil”***

 What a paradox that society today sees the Scriptures as something relatively worthless

Yet pays great sums of money to the people who manufacture deception and flattery

No matter how many lies this generation tells,

God's Word is safe, for He said in **Jeremiah 1:12 –**

***“Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten My Word to perform it”***

The thought here is how that God would be alert or careful to fulfill His promise to Jeremiah

What a wonderful assurance!

God is careful about fulfilling His Word to His people

Furthermore, God is able to protect His people from the lies of the enemy

**v.7b – *“thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever”***

God's people are the generation -

***“of the righteous”***  as found in -

**Psalm 14:5 – *“There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous”***

***“that seek”*** God, as found in -

**Psalm 24:6 – *“This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Thy face,”***

***“of the upright”***

**Psalm 112:2 – *“His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed”***

If God's people will saturate themselves with God's Word,

They won't be seduced by *“this lying generation”*

When the church adopts the techniques and motives of the world

The church ceases to glorify the Lord

Our final verse issues a call to action, for -

**v. 7 - *“The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted”***

Vileness (cheap & worthless) is promoted and exalted in the media

Immorality, brutality, murder, lies, drunkenness, nudity, the love of money, the abuse of authority

The things that God condemns are now a means of universal entertainment

And the entertainment industry gives awards to the people who produce these things

People boast about things they ought to be ashamed of

**Philippians 3:18, 19 – *“(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”
“Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”***

**CONCLUSION**

Is there a way to restrain and overcome this national decay? Yes!

God's people are Salt and Light

**Matthew 5:13-16**

If there were more Light in the land,

There would be less Darkness,

And if we had more Salt,

There would be less Decay

As God's people worship God, pray, and share the Gospel

More people will trust Christ and increase the salt and light in the land

We must! share the truth of the Word with the next generation

**II Timothy 2:2 – *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”***

Why? To prepare them for the battles and opportunities to come

*The church is always just one generation short of extinction!*

So we must be faithful to win the lost and teach the believers,

Or the vilest and wicked will be exalted!

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