

Call to Worship
Opening Prayer.

Hymn 1. Old Time Religion
Hymn 2. Old Rugged Cross

Doctrinal Teaching.

Hymn 3. Take My Life and Let it Be
Hymn 4. I Need Thee Every Hour
Hymn 5. It is Well With My Soul

Offering and Prayer.

Pastoral Prayer.

Sermon.

Psalm 12| God Deals with the Treacherous

**'Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be,
For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.
They speak falsehood to one another;
With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.
May the LORD cut off all flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.
The tongue that speaks great things;
Who have said, 'With our tongue we will prevail;
Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?'
'Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy,
Now I will arise,' says the LORD;
'I will set him in the safety for which he longs.'**

**The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times. You, O LORD, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever.
The wicked strut about on every side when vileness is exalted among the sons of men.'**

Q: Has there ever been a time, in your life, where you have been so burdened. So overcome with the cares of this world. So beaten up. So distressed. So discouraged. That you have no idea where to turn?

Q: Have you ever had the experience where you feel as if, everything that you do, is now, and always will be a failure?

Q: Have you ever felt that the obstacles laid in your life are not going to move, and they are not meant to move, and you cannot move them?

What if I told you that the Obstacles are NOT in the Way, but that the Obstacles ARE THE WAY!

That the path ahead is meant to be challenging NOT for your punishment but for your well-being.

What if I told you, that God gave you difficulties because He loves you?

Would you believe me, if I said that God gives His greatest Soldiers His biggest battles?
Would you believe me, that God entrusts the greatest minds with the greatest challenges?

Is that just a motivational speech or is that How God Has Designed the World?

Here in this Psalm we can see **attributes of God**.

Attributes of God

v. 1 God is God

v. 2 God is True (opposed to falsehood)

v. 3 God is Judge (cutting off the lips of liars)

v. 4 God is Lord (we live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God)

v. 5 God is Deliverer

v. 6 God is Holy

v. 7 God is a Sanctuary

v. 8 God is Eternal

v. 8 God is Patient.

Here we have a man, The Psalmist, King David, opposed, depised, rejected.

Here we have a man, that is a man after God's own heart, and He is a man, lied about, slandered and opposed, yet, NOT absent of a sound view of God.

David sees where his help comes from.

David knows God will rescue him.

David sees the work of the wicked and trusts in the faithfulness of God.

v. 1 'Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.'

a. Help, LORD.

Here's a great prayer for you; two words! Help, LORD.

'where does our help come from?' Psalm 121

Are long prayers the best prayers? Hardly.

Prayers that go straight to heaven are the best prayers. **Clear – Straight – Arrows. Help, LORD!**

That's a prayer that is on target. You can say, Fire for effect. How copy, over? LORD, this is me, Help! Over.

And the LORD responds. Hold what you got! My Help is in route to the objective!
David is in the problem and we always know that He is in the problem because it always leads him to prayer.

Q: How often are you and I met with problems and instead of prayers, we turn to complaints?
How often are we met with obstacles and we become obstinately resistant to prayer?

Do not let your problems turn to complaints and your obstacles turn to obstinace! Let your problems develop your prayers, and your obstacles sharpen your obedience!

As difficult as it is to accept this is the time of your life! The difficult time, is the defining time!

Who you are in the Valley is what will be shined upon on the Hilltop!

But David's attention is directed to the problem and he states clearly what the problem is.

b. the godly man ceases and that the faithful disappear from among the sons of men

Principle 1: God is God. Aseity. It means that God exists unto Himself.

Q: Has the godly man ceased? The answer is no.

But it seems like that when you are in these types of circumstances. It seems like all is lost. It seems like everything will fail. It seems like the godly man has ceased and because of that we must either come up with a new scheme or just reject all hope. Cut all ties, abandon all operations, abort mission!

No, no that is not wise. The godly man has not ceased.

When everything is failing. It seems like everything will always be that same way.

You must keep working! **'All labor is profitable!' Prov. 14:23**

There is one reason why godly men do not cease and it has nothing to do with men choosing God or men disciplining their lives or choosing an alternate path.

The Godly man does not cease because of the principle of God. The Godly man does not cease because God does not cease. God preserves the godly man, despite the godly man's preceptions about current events.

But the problem does present itself, and the problem does persist that the ungodly are proliferating at a rapid rate.

God is God.

Isaiah 45:5 'I am the LORD, and there is no other, apart from me there is no God'

What are we going to do? Become our own authority? Suppress the truth of God and then become a law unto ourselves?

That's what these wicked people do. That what 'they' do. They say that there is no lord over us.

***Always remember**, when people say there is no lord; One of two things happens, they become their own lord or they become owned by the Lord of the Flies.

But here, it seems things are coming together for them.

It doesn't just seem that they are succeeding, they actually are succeeding!

Things are coming together for them, to the extent that the Psalmist says, '**the godly man ceases.**'

God is God. God exists unto Himself. AND, His creation DOES NOT exist unto itself, EVEN, when it is living in active rebellion to Him.

SO, the godly man does not cease, it is only UNTIL the godly man, who was created by God, ceases to praise and worship God THAT we end up with a preponderance of people who are ungodly.

However, wickedness follows shortly thereafter, by people who '**suppress the truth of God**'. AND, professing to be wise, they became fools.

These People who say such things as in these flatteries, '**become a law unto themselves.**' Rom. 2

These people, just like Pilate and Barabbas, do not realize they are paving a smooth, wide, and easily accessible road to Hell.

Where sin persists, Hell exists!

These people in this Psalm are under the impression that because they are gaining ground, and personnel support, and resources, that they are in right standing. NO! They are not.

For the '**Fear of the Lord is the being of wisdom**' BUT fools despise knowledge!

What knowledge do fools despise? The knowledge of GOD! They despise knowing that God is God.

And Look what they do in V2.

v. 2 'They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.'

They – this is a population group that the Psalmist lives within. It is his community. A community of people who are deceptive, and skilled liars. Not a pleasant reality to consider. But that is who he is referring to and it is the reality of David's life.

It's like the Prophet Micah prays in **Micah 7:1-7**

'Woe is me! For I am like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers.
There is not a cluster of grapes to eat, or a first-ripe fig which I crave.
The godly person has perished from the land,
And there is no upright person among men.
All of them lie in wait for bloodshed;
Each of them hunts the other with a net.
Concerning evil, both hands do it well.
The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe,
And a great man speaks the desire of his soul;
So they weave together.
The best of them is like a briar,
The most upright like a thorn hedge.
The day when you post your watchmen,
Your punishment will come.
Then their confusion will occur. (Strong delusion)
Do not trust in a neighbor,
Do not have confidence in a friend.
From her who lies in your bosom
Guard your lips.
For son treats father contemptuously,
Daughter rises up against her mother,
Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
A man's enemies are the men of his own household
But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation. God will hear me.'

In the time of Micah the chief unit, the family unit was disintegrating. In Micah's time, looking for a godly person was like looking for a piece of ripe fruit in the middle of a scorching summer drought.

There were none to be found! How horrible a condition.

But you and I, like the Psalmist, like Micah, must pray and hope and call upon God for help!

Speak Falsehood.

a. You can know a person by how they speak. Rotten speech reflects a rotten heart. Jesus said **'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks'**

'what comes out of the mouth, comes out of the heart and it is this that defiles a man' Matt. 15:18

You can easily tell the cards of the heart a person is holding because of the words of their mouth.

There are various seedbeds of a heart, but nothing is more detrimental to corruption than to be a liar.

'better to have little with integrity than great gain with corruption' Pro. 28

Friends there is no blessing in gaining by the means of falsehood, flattery and having double heart.

Eph. 4:29 'Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.'

As family members, as church members, our words must build.

How is it that

To one another. They speak this falsehood to one another.

a. One Another

In essence, a congregation of people who are just telling each other lies. AND, I know it is hard to believe, but many people prefer lies to truth. Many!

Many people prefer; Bloviating. Exaggerating. Embleshing. Misrepresenting. Contorting. Distorting. Covering up. Scheming.

Many prefer this to plain, simple, clear Truth. WHY? Because it serves the purpose of their **'double heart'**

I would encourage you to read a brief excerpt called, The Hypocrites Soliloquy by Francis Quarles.

'There is not such stuff to make a cloak of as religion; nothing so fashionable, nothing so profitable: it is a livery wherein a wise man may serve two masters, God and the world, and make a gainful service by either. I serve both, and in both myself, by prevaricating with both. Before man none serves his God with more severe devotion; for which, among the best of men, I work my own ends, and serve myself. In private, I serve the world; not with so strict devotion, but with more delight; where fulfilling of her servants' lusts, I work my end and serve myself. The house of prayer, who more frequents than I? In all Christian duties, who more forward than I? I fast with those who fast I may eat with those that eat. I mourn with those that mourn. NO hand more open to the cause than mine, and in their families none prays longer and with louder zeal.

Thus when the opinion of a holy life hath cried the goodness of my conscience up, my trade can lack no custom, my ware can want no price, my words can need no credit, my actions can lack no praise.

If I am covetous, it is interpreted as providence; if miserable, it is counted temperance; if melancholy, it is construed godly sorrow; if mercy, it is voted spiritual joy; if I be rich, it is thought the blessing of a godly life; if poor, supposed the fruit of consionable dealing; if I be well spoken of, it is the merit of holy conversation; if ill, it is the malice of malignants. (In other words, no personal responsibility)

Thus I sail with every win, and have my end in all conditions. This cloak in summer keeps me cool, in winter warm, and hides the nasty bag of all my secret lusts. Under this cloak I walk in public fairly with applause, and in private sin securely without offence, and officiate wisely without discovery. I compass sea and land to make a proselyte; and no sooner made, but he makes me, At a fast I cry Geneva, and at a feast, I cry Rome.

If I be poor, I counterfeit abundance to save my credit; if rich, I dissemble poverty to save charges. I most frequent schematical lectures which I find most profitable.; from thence learning to divulge and maintain new doctrines; they maintain me in suppers thrice a week.

I use the help of a lie sometimes, as a new stratagem to uphold the gospel; and I color oppression with God's judgments executed upon the wicked.

Charity I hold an extraordinary duty; therefore not ordinarily to be performed. What I openly reprove abroad, for my own profit, that I secretly act at home, for my own pleasure.

But stay, I see a handwriting in my heart which damps my soul. It is chartered in these said words, 'Woe be to you, hypocrites" Matt. 23:13

Francis Quarles, The Hypocrite's Soliloquy

Flattering lips and a double heart.

Proverbs tell us that flattery is deceit.

It is a language trait, learned and practiced by those who are up to no good.

To build up in flattery is to bound up in pride.

To build up in Truth is to find mortar with humility.

There is a house that will bend and break. AND, there is a house that will abide forever.

The house of Israel abides in the foundation of Israel. The Truth of the LORD Jesus is not a form of religious hypocrisy, or devotional flattery.

There is a skillset that a Christian should learn and it is this; **to build people up and to give compliments without providing flattery!**
Few places work to achieve this skillset but it is a worthy skill to have!

Flattery is of the devil. But Godly encouragement is from ON-High!

Flattery is hellish ego-boasting. But Godly encouragement is the very breeze of Heaven.

If you struggle with this skill, It will be sufficient for us that **yes to be yes and our no to be no** because anything more than this comes from the evil one!

But yet it is still a noble and honorable skill to sharpen. 'the one who exhorts in his exhortation' Rom. 12

As my kids, children's book says, 'Build Dogs Build!' -Well, we do well to build the confidence and character of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please turn to 2 Thes.

Look at this. We can obviously pull out of this Psalm the devotional problems of falsehood. It is good to not lie. It is good to not speak falsely. It is good to let your **'yes be yes and your no be no'**

That has all kinds of practical realities to your life. And that is important.

But there is actually more to it than this. There is more to this situation, than the devotional take-away of being honest and honestly, encouraging each other.

There is a spiritual significance, a theological significance to this as well. There is actually a reason, a Biblical reason, for why things are happening the way that they are in the world today.

If you're looking at 2 Thes. – look at chapter 2, and Let me lead you into this passage with a general understanding of what is being communicated.

5 times in Paul's letters to the Thessonians he emphasizes the return of Jesus Christ. That return clearly had not yet occurred BUT people were attempting to convince the church in Thessolonica that that event had occurred. AND that the church had missed out on this event and that was a discouragement to those Christians.

Kind of like the situation David is in. It's not the exact same situation, but the point is, that a group of people are 'speaking falsely' and that is leading to discouragement to a growing Christian church.

Paul actually tells them that **they should encourage one another** with the understanding of the return of Christ.

It was a discouragement to think that Christ has already come because of the conditions of the society and how bad things were in general. They were not favorable to actual Christians.

Of course, in any age there are what could be called, Nominal Christians. People who would hold a title but don't treasure the message and demonstrate a changed life by that message.

Love definitely marks the life a true Christian. But here in this chapter we see that it is a certain type of love that marks those people.

Well in this letter Paul is identifying major distinguishing marks of a Truly Saved Person.

A major emphasis that Paul is teaching them is how to have a Healthy Church.

Paul gives two, **over-arching points of how to identify a Healthy church; One is through a sound view of End Times events and Second is through an understanding of the Truth.**

So Paul takes these two things, and Paul places this in the middle of what will be the appearance of the Anti-Christ, who Paul calls here, '**the Man of Lawlessness.**'

Paul outlines a series of events that will occur leading up to this time. One of those events being the **Rapture of the Christian church**, the other event being the apostasy/falling away of many people.

Q: Falling away from what? Do they fall away from church attendance? Some do, some don't.

Paul tells us elsewhere, **that the great apostasy has less to do with the metrics of church attendance and more to do with the church attenders satisfaction with the Truth.**

During the time of the great apostasy, there will be a direct exchange of Sound Doctrine for what Paul calls the Doctrine of Demons.

In essence, what we could see here in Psalm 12, **falsehood, flattery, and a double heart.**

Look at v. 11 and how Paul explains this.

2 Thes. 2:11 'For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false'

The only way to **'speak falsely'** is to believe what is false. In Psalm 12 says 'They speak falsely.' A large group of people who are enemies of King David.

It says here that **'God will send'** this delusion upon them to influence them to believe things that are false.

This is not unclear. It is God that sent the influential force to deceive them. God is NOT the deceiver. BUT God sent the deceive to deceive them.

WHY would GOD do this?.....Look at the verse right before, V10 tells us.

Q: For what reason?

v. 10 'because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved'

I've talked about this many times before that the way by which people claim salvation today is very often not how it has been historically understood.

We have an embrace today of Fast-Food Theology, Minimalistic views of Obedience, and Get Rich Quick Schemes of what people are calling today the Christian Faith.

Christian salvation is not understood so much so by its results in this vapor of a life, but instead it is **understood by the convictions of the persons heart and mind.**

It is best understood by the Affections of a persons heart and mind.

I will tell you, a good and answered prayer is "HELP, LORD" – make me love your truth so as to be saved!

I went through this a couple weeks ago about discipleship.

Knowledge, Belief, Conviction, Affection.

What you know, leads to what you believe, what you believe leads to what you have a conviction about, and that leads to what you love.

Well look at this in **v. 10.**

'The love of the truth, so as to be saved.'

Paul works off the final analysis which is that the person in the church would already know the truth, believe the truth, have deep convictions about the truth and the ultimate result is that **they love the truth.**

We looked at this last week, that that was Jesus' purpose in coming to the earth, **'to testify to the truth.'** John 18

Relating this back to the Psalm; **'they speak falsehood to one another'** certainly cannot be saved people.

Q: Well, why would God do this?

V:12 'In order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.'

Look back at the Psalm 12, leading into verse 3.

All wickedness stems from loving things that are not God's will. All things that are not God's will are things that are not truth.

A mouth that will not pray is a heart

You really have to take stock of what you love in your heart and mind.

It is the Truth that sets a person free. Paul says here, it's the love of the truth that saves a person.

Simple acknowledgement does not prove or guarantee conversion.

A person can acknowledge truth without having convictions of truth. A person can even know truth but not hold the convictions of truth.

I think many people know truth but suppress it because of its consequences.

It's like a math problem.

You could have all the weight of the equation upon your mind and it's not until you come to know, and believe, the solution. And then, having checked your work you know that the answer is right you have an **unshakable conviction** about the solution to the problem.

It is then that you love the answer. It is then that you love the truth. And in that, would you ever in your life, exchange a true answer for a wrong one? Of Course not!

v. 3 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that speaks great things;'

It reminds me of the prophet Jeremiah's question to Baruch

Jer. 45:5 'are you seeking great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold I am going to bring disaster on all flesh' declares the LORD

Maybe you read this Psalm and say, 'Wow, you see a lot in this one passage.'

We'll consider this, that Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 happen to be considered direct cross-references for this verse.

Dan. 7:8 'I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in

this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. (The Anti-Christ. The mouth uttering great things is the Anti-Christ)

Rev. 13:5 'And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.' (We do know that the Jewish suffering under Antiochus Epiphanes/pre-Christ, lasted 3.5 years. We also know, A US President is elected to a 4 year term. 4 years is 48 months, 42 months is 3.5 years, a president is a lame duck for 3 months...ultimately this action is partnered with the destruction of the Jewish people, the temple, and utterly lies and great things)

Great things. The point being, 'many Anti-Christ's' have gone out into the world and you can know them in this way – their falsehood, flattery, and double heart.

Prov. 6:12 'a wicked person is one who walks with a perverse mouth'

There are 6 things God hates

Prov. 6:16 3 of the 6 is 'lying tongue, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers'

Friends, God will not be mocked.

Gal. 6:6-10 'The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.'

Friends the law of sow and reaping is not a law we break but a law that we are either broken upon or blessed in.

v. 4 'Who have said, 'With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?'

a. With our tongue we will prevail.

Q: Prevail in what? Worldly gain? How are you measuring your successes?

Your tongue will advance your purposes to bring about your successes? It is impossible for that to be a godly model of success.

b. Our lips are our own.

'you are not your own, you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies' 1 Cor. 6:19-29

– that is of course, unless you are you own.?!

c. Who is lord over us?

v. 5 'Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, Now I will arise,' says the LORD; "I will set him in the safety for which he longs."

Comfort the afflicted. Jesus Christ gives the afflicted hope.

**'Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.' Christ
The Weary.**

It is as if you cannot go any further. It is as if you have done all that you can. You are weary, you are worn out. You simply cannot go another step.

The load on your back, on your mind, the burden on your heart is too much to carry.

Christ says to that person, come to me. Come here! Listen to me. Cry out.

'Humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God'

'Cast all your cares upon Him because He cares for you'

There are reasons that the LORD takes action against the wicked. Two reasons seen here.

Because of the afflicted,

Because of the groaning

Groaning is praying.

Q: Do we pray about the problems the wicked created? Or to do we have the Ostrich effect, and ignore it and act like it isn't happening in real time.

The Psalmist longed for safety. NOT lies, NOT falsehood, not flattering lips, not a double heart, NOT even great things!

The Psalmist longed for safety.

We DON'T need to pray for 'great things', We just need to pray for God's Things!

v. 6 'The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.'

God is Holy.

a. It is pure.

b. It has been tried and it has come back purier than a precious metal.

v. 7 'You, O LORD, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever.'

God is Eternal.

- a. God preserves his people.
- b. God does this in a way that only He can; an eternal way – forever. Eternal life.

v. 8 'The wicked strut about on every side, when vileness is exulted among the sons of men.'

- a. When vileness is exulted , the wicked strut!

Words Hurt.

We have all heard that sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.

Words Hurt so severely that the punishment of false testimony in the OT was the death penalty.

What a person says can have far reaching implications.

These wicked people say whatever they want. 'Who is lord over us?' – In other words, who is going to tell us what to do and what to say?

Well, for the Christian, Christ is supposed to direct what we do and what we say.

The words of the wicked hurt, BUT, nothing hurts like the word of God when it comes to bear upon a human conscience in its purity!

God's word is Pure because God is Pure.

God is Holy.

We know that God is Holy. We know that God's people are called to be Holy. 'be Holy, for I am Holy.'

But here it is identified in a unique way that you may have not considered. God demonstrates His holy, purity to us in His word.

V. 6 'the words of the LORD are pure words'

This purity of the LORD's word has an effect.

Ps. 18:30 'This God – His way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

Heb. 4:12-13

God is a Sanctuary. God is Eternal. God is Patient.

Gal. 6 'do not be deceived, God will not be mocked. You will reap what you sow.

Friends the patience of God is long and it is good, but it does have an end. That ending of God's patience arrives at its destination here, when the prayers of His people reach a level of groaning that He takes action.

Pastoral Prayer.

Hymn 6. I'll Fly Away.

Benediction.

Closing Prayer.

Small Group Questions.

- 1. Does the 'godly man cease'? Is there any way we can help each other grow in godliness?**
- 2. Can you see the outlined attributes of God through this Psalm?**
- 3. How can we be an encouragement to each other by giving Godly encouragement that lasts and not flattery that deceives?**
- 4. Do you know of any practical examples of how flattery, falsehood and alluding to great things harms Christian unity? Is God the 'lord of our lips' or are we free to speak however we like?**
- 5. How is the work of the Anti-Christ connected to 'speaking falsehood' 'flattery' and 'great things'? Daniel 7, Rev. 11/13, 2 Thes. 2**
- 6. Do we have confidence in God in His deliverance and**