

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #76

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

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Timeless **Psalms 35** a study by John T. Polk II

Vs. 1-8 contain David's appeal for God to deal with his enemies;

Vs. 9-18 depict how merciless those enemies are;

Vs. 19-28 contrast the effects of God's intervention in the enemies and in David.

David's frequent appeals for protection from his enemies in his Psalms is a reminder to all of us that *the doers of good have always had enemies*. Beginning with Cain and Abel (**1 John 3:11-13**), those obedient to God are hated by those who are not. Jesus Christ, the best man of all explained it: "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you" (**John 15:18-19**).

Psalms 35:7 no doubt reminded David of Joseph's brothers (**Genesis 37:4,5,8,11,18,23-25**) whose "pit" held him till he was sold into Egypt (**Acts 7:9**). Hatred was in Joseph's brothers, but not caused by Joseph's actions. No cheap, tawdry video today causes the hatred that burns in the hearts of those who are taught to believe someone else is blessed by God while they are not. *Good-haters are God-haters!* "A disciple is not above his teacher" (**Luke 6:40**).

Psalms 35:19 perfectly stated the case for the perfect Savior being hated by the Jews in His day: "'But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause'" (**John 15:25**).

Verses 9-10 use "poor and the needy" to show heartlessness in those who would overpower the poor and steal from the needy. **Verses 11-14** mention that enemies: make false charges (**verse 11**), "reward me evil for good" (**verse 12**),

and rejoiced at his stumbling (**verses 15-16**), but "when they were sick" David's concern was "bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother" (**verse 14**). David asks God how much longer this will go on (**verses 17-18**), the same question asked by those Christians killed in the Jewish persecution (**Acts 8:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16; Revelation 6:9-11**) and answered in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (**Luke 11:49-51; 21:21-24**). It is right and proper to pray that God will deal with evil-doers, both in this life and the one to come.

Of those who slander the truth: "Their condemnation is just" (**Romans 3:8**). Christians' faith which endures persecutions and tribulations "is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you" (**2 Thessalonians 1:5-6**).

In **verses 19-28**, some 5 times, David says, "let them not..." That is, he wants God to stop what they are doing to him. This is not persecution of those who do good, but of those "who are wrongfully my enemies" and deceitfully have "opened their mouth wide against me, And said, 'Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it'" (**verses 19-21**). Anyone today who preaches and teaches only what the Bible says knows this feeling when liars make false charges, and can identify these enemies by name. "'Therefore by their fruits you will know them" (**Matthew 7:20**). A person is known by his enemies, as well as by his friends! Paul pointed out that anyone who becomes our enemy when we teach the truth may be using "sectarian" tactics to make us like them: "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them" (**Galatians 4:16-17**). Indeed, this **Psalms** is timeless in application! ---jtpII

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For we have spent enough of our past lifetime
in doing the will of the Gentiles - when we
walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness,
revelries, drinking parties, and abominable
idolatries. In regard to these, they THINK it
strange that you do not run with them in the
same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of
you. They will give an account to Him who is
ready to judge the living and the dead.

- 1 Peter 4:4-5

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Forgiveness Is With God

"If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared" (**Psalm 130:3-4**). To realize that God knows every sin of ours is to realize that no one is perfect enough by our self to face God without being forgiven. People can try to hide from God, like Adam and Eve who "hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden" (**Genesis 3:8**). People can act like Pharisees who, Jesus said, "are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts" (**Luke 16:15**). Neither works! God's forgiveness changes us. "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you" (**Ephesians 4:31-32**). ---John T. Polk II

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~*"Beware of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship."*
--Benjamin Franklin
- ~*"I much prefer the sharpest criticism of a single intelligent man to the thoughtless approval of the masses."* ~Johannes Kepler
- ~*"He is rich who owes nothing."* ~Hungarian Proverb
- ~*"Better untaught than ill taught."*
- ~*"One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade."*
— Chinese Proverb
- ~ *When a man uses profanity to support an argument, it indicates that either the man or the argument is weak—probably both.*
- ~ *Some people remember a lie for ten years, but forget the truth in ten minutes.*

THE MOST VALUABLE DISCOVERY

In 1847, Sir James Simpson of Edinburgh discovered the use of chloroform as an anesthetic in surgery. Some claim this to be the most significant discovery of modern medicine.

In his later years, Sir James was lecturing at Edinburgh University and a student asked, "What do you consider to be the most valuable discovery of your lifetime?"

He answered quickly, "My most valuable discovery was when I discovered myself a sinner and that Jesus Christ was my Savior."

The book of Romans makes clear these two significant truths that Simpson articulated. The problem is sin. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). And the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Paul declares that the power of God unto salvation is the gospel of Jesus (Romans 1:16). In Christ we have the divine provision: *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). The price that was paid? *"Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him"* (Romans 5:9).

Now what's the process by which we contact that blood? By placing our faith and trust in Jesus (Romans 5:1), confessing Christ (Romans 10:9-10), turning from our sins in repentance (Romans 2:4), and being buried with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:1-4). Then we are to dedicate the rest of our lives in service to Him (Romans 6:12-18; 12:1).

The most valuable discovery you and I can make is that we are sinners and that Christ desires to be our Savior.

—Allan Eldridge/David A. Sargent, Mobile, AL