

- 1 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.
- 2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.
- 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Psalm 12:1-2,7)

“Help, Lord.” The shortest prayer possible. “Help,” is the cry of need, and it embraces every sort of petition imaginable. A cry of need ought to be addressed to the Lord, Jehovah, Who is all sufficiency. He is our only Saviour. None other can truly help, and we need no other, since He is able.

Sometimes this brief petition is all that we can make. We know not exactly how we should be helped, and often we do not know exactly in what area we need help. Paul the Apostle tells us the Holy Spirit helps us to pray when we know not what we should ask. But the needy heart always cries, “Help, Lord.”

The conditions lamented at the writing of this Psalm sound familiar enough to be today. It seems there are no more godly people. It looks as if that sort of person has ceased to be found, and that there are no more faithful, trustworthy, honest people among the children of men. Empty meaningless chatter, flattering speeches intended to seduce, and vacillating insincerity are the character and tone of conversation.

How are we to be kept, preserved and protected from being swept away by the corruption of our day? Preach, teach, warn, plead, labor as we might, we will not convert all the wicked from their ways. Our purity and preservation depend not upon changing the world, but in our God keeping us from the world. This was included in the intercession of Christ for His chosen, “Keep through thine own name those whom thou has given me, that they may be one, as we are.” Even so, as God has preserved His people in every previous time, He will surely keep them from this generation.