

## ***True Words***

### Psalm 12

Save, O Lord, for the godly one is gone;  
for the faithful have vanished  
from among the children of man.  
Everyone utters lies to his neighbor;  
with flattering lips and a double heart they speak.

May the Lord cut off all flattering lips,  
the tongue that makes great boasts,  
those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail,  
our lips are with us; who is master over us?"

"Because the poor are plundered,  
because the needy groan,  
I will now arise," says the Lord;  
"I will place him in the safety for which he longs."

**The words of the Lord are pure words,  
like silver refined in a furnace on the ground,  
purified seven times.**

You, O Lord, will keep them;  
you will guard us from this generation forever.  
On every side the wicked prowl,  
as vileness is exalted among the children of man.

Do you believe everything you hear? Of course not! We know that people lie - sometimes big ones, sometimes "little white" ones. We know the truth is often "bent" to fit the viewpoint of the speaker. We know people are biased and lie by omission. There is flattery - words we speak to get what we want,

and times when words are twisted, so that what is said is not what is meant at all. As one writer put it: *Words become as alterable as hemlines and hats.\**

This is nothing new. The psalmist speaks of it here. In fact, the very first sin sprung from a lie - when the devil lied to Adam and Eve and plundered them.

But there is another word that we hear - *the word of the Lord*. His word is different. His words, the psalmist says, are pure. They are true, trustworthy, will not deceive us or mislead us, and are clear. When it comes to the word of the Lord, you can believe everything you hear.

And here is even better news! This true, trustworthy, clear, and pure word of God, which will never deceive us or mislead us, *became flesh* (John 1:14) and was given the name Jesus. This is what we celebrated at Christmas. This is what caused the Wise Men to fall down and worship Him. And He has come to keep us, guard us, and save us. For He is **the godly one who was gone** - His life snuffed out on the cross - but who then **arose** to life again and so has **placed us in the safety for which we long**.

Yes, in Him, we are safe. Though the world continue to lie, the devil continue to rage, **the wicked prow**, and **vileness be exalted**, in the end, they will not win; cannot win. For the one who is truth has defeated the lie, the one who is pure has defeated sin, the one who is life has defeated death. Though these are all still around us in this world and life, you have a safe place - you are baptized into Christ Jesus! His victory is your victory. And it will be long after this world and its wickedness has passed away.

Listen to Him. His word of truth, His word of promise, His word of life. His word named Jesus. His sure and trustworthy word *for you*.

*Dear Jesus, help me to believe Your every word and know all that You have done for me. Forgive me when my words are less than truthful and help me to speak only what is true. Keep my eyes always focused on you, the one who*

*arose to give me that safety for which I long, that safety that not even death can take away - the promise of everlasting life. Thank You for Your true and steadfast words! Amen.*

\* Patrick Henry Reardon, *Christ in the Psalms* (Ben Lomond, CA: Conciliar Press, 2000), 21.