

“The Lord Loves Truth”  
(Psalm 12)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. As we've seen, the psalms reveal different aspects of God.
  - a. His love for the way of the righteous and hatred of that of the wicked (Psalm 1).
  - b. His desire that all would submit to His Son, and His purpose to subdue those who won't (Psalm 2).
  - c. How He is a shield to those who trust Him and a terror to those who hate Him (Psalm 3).
  - d. How He loves the righteous and listens to their prayers, but how He hates the wicked and is angered by their lies (Psalm 5).
  - e. How ultimately He will bless the righteous, but destroy the wicked (throughout the psalms).
  
2. In many of the psalms we also learn by way of example and contrast what marks the righteous and the wicked.
  - a. The righteous meditate on the law of God (1), submit to His rule (2), trust in the Lord to protect them (3), to answer their prayers (4), and to deliver them from their enemies (5-7).
  - b. The wicked disobey God (1), will not submit to His rule (2), threaten the righteous (3), lie (4), boast (5), kill the innocent.
  - c. They are moral opposites: this is grace versus nature.
  - d. And yet we find that the righteous aren't perfect.
    - (i) They also struggle with sin.
    - (ii) Their old nature hasn't been destroyed.
    - (iii) And so they still need God's mercy.
  
  - e. The psalms are full of lessons in righteousness and warnings against ungodliness.
  
3. But they also speak of the mercies the Lord stores up for those who trust in Him.
  - a. They also exhort us to learn about God:
    - (i) To imitate Him.
    - (ii) To become more like Him.
    - (iii) This is what we've been predestined to: to be like His Son (Rom. 8:29), who is His express image (Heb. 1:3).
  
  - b. If by faith we are becoming like Him, we will inherit life. Peter tells us, “His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith

supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you” (2 Pet. 1:3-11).

## B. Preview.

1. Our psalm this morning teaches us these lessons:
  - a. It tells us what the righteous are like – godly, faithful – things we are to imitate.
  - b. It tells us what the wicked are like – liars, flatterers, deceivers, boasters – things we are to avoid.
  - c. But it also tells us what God is like: truthful; because God cannot lie and always speaks the truth, He cannot fail to keep His Word.
  
2. What I want us to see this morning is that God loves truth. Because He does,
  - a. He hates those who deceive and will judge them.
  - b. But He loves those who believe the truth and will defend them.

## II. Sermon.

### A. First, David tells us that God is a God of truth and loves truth.

1. We can deduce this from what He commends and rejects.
  - a. When the godly and faithful are threatened, He threatens those who threaten them.
    - (i) God commends those like Him – godly, faithful (v. 1).
    - (ii) He condemns those not like Him.
  
  - b. He is a God who loves truth and hates deception.
  
2. But David tells us clearly what He is like:
  - a. “The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times” (v. 6).
    - (i) His words are pure.
    - (ii) As silver refined so many times as to remove all impurities.
    - (iii) His words are not mixed with lies – they are true, because He is truth.
  
  - b. Because His words are pure, David writes, “You, O Lord, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever” (v. 7).
    - (i) Because He is true, He will keep His words.
    - (ii) Especially, His promise to deliver His people.
    - (iii) He will preserve His church.

3. Of course, we have much more about this in Scripture:
  - a. Balaam prophesied, “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Num. 23:19).
  - b. Samuel said to Saul, “Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind” (1 Sam. 15:29).
  - c. And since God never changes, what He says will always be true: “For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed” (Mal. 3:6).
  - d. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (Luke 21:33).
  - e. God is true; He loves truth.

B. Because this is what He’s like, He hates those who lie and will judge them.

1. Notice the description of the wicked:
  - a. “They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with a double heart they speak” (v. 2).
    - (i) They are the opposite of God, of the godly/faithful.
    - (ii) They lie to one another.
    - (iii) They flatter – which is to say something nice hoping to deceive and gain advantage. “A flatterer is said to be a beast that bites smiling. But it is hard to know them from friends -- they are so flattering and full of protestations: for as a wolf resembles a dog, so doth a flatterer a friend” (Raleigh, *The Book of Symbols*, 1844).
    - (iv) They have a double-heart – the essence of deception.
  - b. Deception is only one form of wickedness, but it breeds more wickedness:
    - (i) “The wicked strut about on every side when vileness is exalted among the sons of men” (v. 8).
    - (ii) This is an axiom: when a society reaches the point where evil is praised, it encourages the wicked to be bold in their evil.
    - (iii) This is how it appeared to David.
    - (iv) This is how it appears today, perhaps in most times.
2. But since God loves truth and hates lies, He will judge the wicked.
  - a. “May (or will) the LORD cut off all flattering lips, 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?’” (vv. 3-4).
  - b. The Lord will bring them to judgment – they’re not getting away with anything.
    - (i) He will cut off the lips that flatter, that boast.
    - (ii) “May there not be here an allusion to those terrible but suggestive punishments which Oriental monarchs were wont [accustomed] to execute on criminals? Lips were cut off and tongues torn out when offenders were convicted of lying or treason. So terrible and infinitely more so are the punishments of sin” (C.H.S., *Treasury*).
    - (iii) He will not just cut off their lips, but those attached to them.
    - (iv) And cast them whole into hell.

- c. This is a very good reason to abstain from these evils.
  - (i) John writes, “Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).
  - (ii) The righteous not only want to live, they also want to be like God.
  - (iii) God loves truth and hates deception.
  - (iv) What better reason is there to turn from the ways of the world and seek Him?

C. At the same time, He loves His people and will deliver them.

1. He can't destroy His enemies without destroying His people's enemies at the same time, for they are the same.
  - a. The godly (v. 1) are godly because they are God's.
  - b. The faithful (v. 1) are faithful because they have His Spirit of adoption.
  - c. When God justly destroys His enemies, He destroys our enemies.
  
2. David writes:
  - a. “‘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’” (v. 5).
  - b. Because the Lord is faithful to His Word/truth, He will save His people, “You, O Lord, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever” (v. 7).
  - c. This is our hope, our blessing: God will deliver us/see us safely to heaven.
  
3. We're exhorted by way of example to cultivate these virtues: godliness and faithfulness.
  - a. To become more like God.
  - b. To exhibit faithfulness to our words, as God is faithful to His.
  - c. As we do, this psalm holds out a promise to us: God will keep us.
    - (i) It appears as though the godly are so few today.
    - (ii) The wicked appear to be everywhere: the wicked strut about on every side.
    - (iii) But God will deliver the righteous.
    - (iv) He will set us in the safety we desire.
    - (v) He will preserve us from this generation.
    - (vi) But we must trust in His Son.
    - (vi) We must cultivate truth and faithfulness.
    - (vii) We must grow in His image.
    - (viii) Then we will be assured of His salvation. Amen.