

Psalms 4:1-3 - January 15th

~ Set apart by God and for God ~

“Answer me when I call O God of my righteousness,”

Lord, do I see you as the only source and maintenance of my righteousness?

“You have given me relief when I was in distress.”

When I come and pray to you, Lord, am I really crying out to You as the only source to relieve me in distress?

“Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!”

Lord, would you be able to get my heart in such a place where I feel completely unworthy of Your Grace?

I confess that bitterness and self-reliance easily creep in - that causes my prayers to be cold to you.

“O you sons of men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah”

Lord have a grown complacent, lackadaisical to culture around me that does not live for your glory, but takes your name in vain? Am I crying out how long - about myself and other - will keep on loving vain words? Am I heartbroken over the lack of progress that is promised us if we would daily speak the truth in love to one another? Are we in the flow of media that is constantly seeking after a lie? Has the world crept into our church? Is this why we are so void of spiritual power?

“But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.”

Oh, Lord, I hear you interjecting your voice into this whirlwind of questions. Making a declaration of your love and power, describing the nature of your church, (those who have been called out by you for you), from the empty vain life of this world to live a life with an eternal perspective. You're calling us to know that you have set apart those you have made godly through faith in your Son - for yourself. Because we are chosen out of this world to be

holy and blameless before you in love. You'll answer us when we pray. Because our prayers are for your kingdom to come, and your will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven. This is true, because we have experienced the emptiness of the reverse... Trying to ask you to bless in heaven what we do - or want to do - on earth. This only leads to disillusionment and disappointment end. You've declared that we are seated with you in heavenly places... May the affections of our hearts be set on what is heavenly today and not earthly. We choose to know what you want us to know and disregard everything else. You want us to know that we are dead with you and our life is hidden in God with Christ. For this reason we set our affections on things above where you live. Yes, you are the God of our righteousness! Lord, we declare our love to you, because you have drawn us away from the world to be yours. We are amazed that you hear us when we pray. I'm going to stop thinking of the empty words in comparison to the eternal treasure that I have in you. Empty words like - caring what my spouse thinks of me, parents, boss, children.

Deceitful words like - thinking what really matters is to store up more than what is necessary to care of us beyond it to you today.