

Truth in the Midst of Confusion

In this new series of articles, we're looking at Psalm 140—a Psalm of King David's—which reveals the biblical truth that there are many times when God's people will suffer because of seeking to stand strong for God, his kingdom, his Word and his ways. Last week we began this Psalm by looking at David's *prayer against enemy plots*. The Psalm begins: "Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men..." It's a self-evident truth that when Christians seek to stand for truth and justice, as understood biblically, we can often be excoriated by many who've fallen prey to unbiblical beliefs. Sadly, many in our world today have seemingly lost any semblance of biblical understanding in many areas, but particularly in the *biblical teaching* on gender as male and female. And yet, the Bible declares that God our Creator has spoken definitively on this issue. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

In his most recent book entitled, "The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self," Christian author and professor, Dr. Carl Trueman "analyzes the development of the sexual revolution as a symptom—rather than a cause—of the human search for identity." In the opening line of the introduction to this important book Trueman writes, "The origins of this book lie in my curiosity about how and why a particular statement has come to be regarded as coherent and meaningful: 'I am a woman trapped in a man's body.' My grandfather died in 1994, less than thirty years ago, and yet, had he ever heard that sentence uttered in his presence, I have little doubt that he would have burst out laughing and considered it a piece of incoherent gibberish. And yet today it is a sentence that many in our society regard as not only meaningful but so significant that to deny it or question it in some way is to reveal oneself as stupid, immoral, or subject to yet another irrational phobia."

The sexual revolution has permeated our culture at a rapid pace. Almost daily we read reports of those who've dared to stand in opposition to—for example—"same sex marriage" or gender dysphoria and have received, from their opponents, openly vitriolic and abusive language and even orchestrated attempts to ruin their reputation. Christians must stand for truth, and yet, we don't *only* want to be seen for what we're *against* or what tends to make us *angry*. We must be those who *graciously* speak and live our lives in line with the teachings of Holy Scripture even though there will always be those who'll disagree with us. It's important that we seek, by grace, to live out the beauty of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in a secular culture that is, according to Holy Scripture, confused or deceived on many fronts.

If Christians are not speaking truth; if we're not seeking to be salt and light to those around us (Matthew 5:13-16), there's no one else to do it. The ills of our culture cannot be, ultimately, solved by politics or politicians. Only the gospel of Jesus will change people from the inside-out. Therefore, Christians must not *merely* live for ourselves but we must sacrifice for the good of others. We must tell people about Jesus, even if it may prove costly to do so. Only the Bible gives the answers to the confusion and loss of hope that many experience daily. What we truly believe matters profoundly. British author and philosopher, G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in *nothing*, they then become capable of believing in *anything*." Let's look now at:

—Prayer for God's Protection

In verses 6-8 of Psalm 140 David gives us an example of a man who is certain of the faithfulness of God which leads to confidence that God will be with him and watch over him in his suffering. In verse 6 David declares that God is *his God*. Since there's no doubt in David's mind about his relationship with God, he knows that he can pray with great expectation of answered prayer as he cries out in desperate "pleas for mercy..." In verse 7 David speaks of a time of God's protection in the *past*. "O LORD, my Lord, the strength of my *salvation*, (or *deliverance*) you have covered my head in the day of battle." David's language speaks of war and the battlefield to acknowledge God as the Divine Warrior who always fights for his people. When Christians seek to *graciously* stand for truth against many in the culture around us who disagree with scriptural teaching, we know that God is always there with his people.

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