

A call to desist, v.2

- I. *How long shall my honor be turned into shame?*
 - A. David's honor was conferred on him by the Lord anointing him as king of Israel, 1Sam 16.10-13.
 - B. His enemies sought to turn it into shame by usurping the throne and denying him the submission which his office deserved. So David calls them to desist.
 1. Despite how they had exalted themselves, he addresses them as mere *men* before God.
 2. *How long?* David knew this rebellion had not sprung up overnight, 2Sam 15.6-7.
- II. *How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?*
 - A. They had the son of David, the counsel of Ahithophel, the hearts of all Israel, and even the ark of God. But it was all in vain because their hopes were erected on lies and self-flattery.
 - B. Absalom was a man who loved vanity and sought after lies.
- III. *Selah*
 - A. Stand amazed at the *blindness* caused by sin and the *foolishness* caused by a love for lies. This is the natural course and condition of every sinner by nature, Eph 2.3, 12.
 - B. Admire, therefore, the grace of God that made you to differ and confess with David that *salvation belongs to the Lord*, Ps 3.8.

The reason why, v.3

- I. *But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord hears when I call to Him.*
 - A. It was vain to oppose David because his honor was from the Lord. It was the Lord who placed him upon the throne.
 1. David has a call and commission from God to be king along with the protection of God because he is king.
 - B. It was vain to oppose him because the Lord hears him when he calls.
 1. God would soon answer him with the victory for which he prays; therefore they had better *stand down*.

Applications

- I. Take comfort that what David said of himself can be said of every Christian: *God has set us apart for Himself.*
 - A. He's created you to bear His image and made you the recipient of His saving, fatherly care.
 - B. When the world reviles you for your religion, take heart that you are the Lord's (Isa 43.1) and quiet your reproaches with the words of Christ in Heb 2.13.
 1. Let this comfort increase in that God has also set Himself apart for you, Jn 17.19; Phil 4.9.
 - C. But from this comfort flows a necessary exhortation. If God has set you apart for Himself, then you must live set-apart lives for His sake, 1Pet 1.14-19; Tit 2.14.
 1. Those set apart from the world cannot live as the world lives but must honor God with lives in keeping with His consecration of them.
 2. This, then, is your honor: being set apart *by God for God*. Therefore walk before the Lord as *His*.
- II. Examine yourself to be sure that you enjoy a clear conscience before God and men about where you are and what you're doing, Ps 139.23-24.
 - A. Is your conscience clear before God with regard to what you're doing, where you are, and what you're pursuing?
 - B. If it is, then you can disregard reproach, stay the course, and know that all will end in God's glory for your good.
 - C. But if it's not, then you need to put off sinful ways and return to your calling before God.
- III. Comfort yourself that God has set Christ apart for Himself, Isa 49.1-3.
 - A. The gates of hell will never prevail against Christ's church.
 - B. Therefore all who seek their refuge within it are forever safe because they are *His people*.