

CORRUPTION IN THE COMMUNITY

Psalm 12

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INTRODUCTION: CULTURE IN DECLINE

Any way you slice it, it is hard to deny that Western Culture is in decline.

Morally and Spiritually, we are sinking.

250,000 churches in America

80% of them are in either not growing or in decline.

6,000-10,000 churches close their doors each year.

Church membership has gone down from 70% in 1990 to 50% today, weekly church attendance is down from 40% to 17%.

1 Kings 19:9, 10, 18

? How do we survive in such a culture? Psalm 12 tells us.

Example of a Chiastic Structure:

A. The dog chased the cat.

B. The cat chased the mouse.

C. The mouse went into the house and caused a commotion.

B. The cat ate the mouse.

A. The dog pounced on the cat.

Proposition: God preserves His people when godlessness prevails as they hope in Him and His Word.

? How does the Christian survive in a declining culture?

A. TRUE BELIEVERS ARE FEW, V. 1

1. THE GODLY ONE CEASES TO BE

2. THE FAITHFUL DISAPPEAR

B. HYPOCRITES ABOUND, VV. 2-4

1. THEY LIE

a. Flattering

b. Doublehearted

Four Movements in the Church Today that cause concern:

Worldly Mission: Social Justice instead of the Gospel.

Worldly Methods: Seeker Sensitive instead of true worship.

Worldly Morals: Sensuality instead of holiness.

Worldly Motivation: Selfishness instead of God's glory.

Psalm 119:10

With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.

Psalm 111:1

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart,
In the company of the upright and in the assembly.

Psalm 138:1

I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing praises to You before the gods.

2. THEY BOAST

a. "Our Tongues Give Us Strength"

b. "Our Lips Defy Authority"

Matthew 7:21-23

C. YAHWEH SAVES THE POOR, V. 5

? What is the answer to cultural decline?

B1. GOD'S WORD REMAINS, V. 6

1. IT IS PURE

a. Like Silver Refined

b. Like Silver Completely Refined

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Psalm 119:89

Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

A1. GOD PRESERVES THE TRUE BELIEVER, VV. 7-8

1. GOD PROTECTS US

a. God Keeps

b. God Preserves

? How long will God protect us?

Willem VanGemenen

God expects his children to live with the tensions resulting from a walk in faith: reliance on his promise (vv. 6-7) and the reality of the ever present vileness of man (v. 8).

2. THE GODLESS WILL CONTINUE

a. They Will Strut

b. They Will Exalt Vileness

Proverbs 30:11-14

CONCLUSION: STANDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

Psalm 12 gives two keys to surviving and thriving in the midst of cultural decline.

1. God's Word

Isaiah 8:19-20

When they say to you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter," should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

2. God' Protection

John 17:14-17

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

