

Psalm 141

In this Psalm the Psalmist senses the danger of being provoked into ill-considered speech, there is an element of urgency in this prayer, [verses 1-2].

Psalms 141:3 [New King James] *“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.”*

The tongue is a powerful agent for both good and evil.

James 3:6-10 [New King James] *“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”*

James illustrates how the tongue can do great damage causing evil, poisoning people’s minds and curse other human beings who are also made in the “image” of God, especially those who are in the “likeness” of God, those true Christians who reflect the very character of the Creator God.

James 1:26 [New King James] *“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.”*

You cannot honestly claim to be a true Christian if you do not control your tongue.

Psalms 141:4-5 [New King James] *“Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies. Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; it shall be as excellent oil; let my head not refuse it. For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.”*

The control of our tongue begins with our heart, that is the motivating force of our whole life. Not to allow the physical success of evil people to lead us to follow their example.

We must however accept the correction of the Creator God, which is often given to us by other human beings, some of whom we may **not** consider fit to reprove us.

Psalms 141:6-7 [NIV] *“their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs, and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken. [They will say,] ‘As one ploughs and breaks up the earth, so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.’”*

The prayers of the Psalmist are always against the deeds of the wicked not the person, and all he says is only designed to heal them of their wickedness.

Yet such wicked people may have to receive powerful correction directly from the Creator God before they have a change of heart and mind.

Matthew 24:21-22 [New King James] *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”*

This is the prophesied time at the very Second Coming of Jesus Christ, this time as Judge of all humanity, [see **verse 3**].

Psalms 141:8-9 [New King James] *“But my eyes are upon You, O GOD the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute. Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity.”*

The Psalmist looks only to the Creator God for shelter from the effect of these evil deceiving people, to avoid falling into the snares and traps they lay to cause him to stumble into sin.

Psalms 141:10 [New King James] *“Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.”*

In the end the wicked will fall into the traps that they set to cause the righteous people to be caught up in evil.

1 Peter 5:6-11 [New King James] *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

This is good advice for every true Christian by the apostle Peter inspired by the Holy Spirit.

James 4:7-10 [New King James] *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”*

Similar advice is given by the Creator God through the apostle James, the brother of Jesus Christ, and leader of the Christian Church in Jerusalem.