

QTC551. "You Are A Wonder" Psalm 139 series part 17. 26 December 2024

"You Are A Wonder" Psalm 139 Series - Part 17 | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching
Episode 551

Introduction

Today, we look at verses nineteen to twenty-two of the Psalm.

Psalm 139.19-22

“O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me
—
those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!
Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up
against you?
I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.”

Rather bloodthirsty! Is this the right attitude? What is going on in David's heart? He is reflecting on his intense opposition to God's enemies. He is distressed by threats to his own life and threats to God's honour.

Depart

David wants the unrighteous as far away from him as possible. It is not a personal vendetta he intends to carry out. Remember how he treated Saul? As the Tyndale commentary says, “For all its vehemence, the hatred in this passage is not spite, but zeal for God.” Indeed, “To see evil and not be alarmed by it is a sign that there is something terribly wrong with us.” Hard Sayings of the Bible

This is the kind of prayer we pray when we are in trouble from opposition.

Psalm 6.8

“Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.”

It is permissible to pray passionately for the removal of people who oppose God.

Distance

Sometimes, the people opposing us won't go away. What do we do? If they don't move, we will. We can avoid unhelpful people, [1 Corinthians 15.33](#), avoid being yoked to them, [2 Corinthians 6.14-18](#), and shun friendship with the world, [James 4.4](#).

Where is Jesus in this?

His loyalty to his heavenly Father was total. When tempted, he responded with, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' (Luke 4:8) When opposed, even by his family, he remained loyal to his Father's agenda, "pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'" (Matthew 12:49-50)

How does this help us?

We cannot serve two masters ([Luke 14.26](#)). We must choose who we love. We must be able to say to God, "Your enemies are my enemies, and my enemies are your enemies."

Question

Do you feel torn in any area of your life between God and the agenda of the world?

Suggestions

If you sense a struggle, can you offer it to God in prayer and ask him for strength to be decisive? Pray for the courage to distance yourself from unhelpful or harmful influences and to stand firm in your loyalty to God.

Conclusion

Next time, we will move on to verses twenty-three to twenty-four.

I am planning a spiritual experience day based on Psalm 139 in the spring of 2025. If you'd be interested, please email me at malcolm@malcolmcox.org.

Your brother, Malcolm

Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical?

Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: malcolm@malcolmcox.org.

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