

Intro:

Kidner says this psalm has a ‘puritan vigour’ and reminds him of Christian and Faithful in Vanity Fair. When they are asked, ‘What will you buy?’ They reply, ‘We buy the truth!’

Such a way of life is opposed in the world, so the saint who would maintain it has a need for faith in God and the help of God to maintain his faith.

Read Ps 141

I. An evening prayer (1-2)

When is this prayer being offered? (2)

In the evening – compared to the offering of the evening sacrifice

What part of the evening sacrifice is the prayer itself compared to? (2)

The offering of incense – a regular image for prayer, see Rev 5.8, Heb 13.15

What mood is this prayer offered in? (1)

A mood of urgency – David ‘cries’, asks God to ‘make haste’

II. An enduring commitment (3-6)

What passage does v. 3 remind you of? How does it relate to the praying of v. 2?

James 3; the concern for pure prayer demands a carefully guarded mouth

How does v. 4 transition to deeper things than v. 3?

From the lips to the heart: from external activities to mind and will

What dangers is David aware of, for which he asks God’s help? (4)

Incline not my heart... he yields his heart to God, wanting God to guide his inclinations – his desires and will

Let me not eat... he doesn’t want to descend to any level of intimacy with the wicked, fearing the power of ‘tacit approval’ that common fellowship might display – and the inclination it might lead to

Note: the level of friendship with lost people must be carefully guarded – we need to take care about laughing at their jokes, adopting their mindset in any way

How does David ask God to accomplish the right inclination of the heart? (5)

Through the correction and rebuke of righteous friends

What is the ultimate point of v. 6?

The words of a faithful man will ultimately be vindicated

Might be a bit of a chiasm here:

Lips (3)

Incline not my heart (4)

Let the righteous smite me [correcting heart] (5)

Words (6)

III. An ending faith (7-9)

What is contrasted in vv. 7-8?

The miserable condition of the afflicted righteous man and his continued trust in the Lord

The last two verses sound much like the theme of Ps 140. What do they reveal about David's enemies? What do they reveal about David?

The enemies persist in malice, but David prays that they will be captured by their own devices.

David is relying on the Lord, and expecting to escape.