

THE VIOLENCE OF SLANDER

PSALM 140

Introduction:

I. THEIR VERBAL VIOLENCE THREATENS THE GODLY.

1. Their verbal violence expresses their heart.

“Which imagine mischiefs in their hearts continually.”

“The proud have hid a snare for me.”

2. Their verbal violence creates danger.

“They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent: adders poison is under their lips.”

What they say is a danger to your reputation, but even worse their words can infect you with the deadly poison of bitterness and anger. They can stir in you the desire for revenge.

II. THEIR VERBAL VIOLENCE CREATES JUDGMENT FOR THEMSELVES.

1. Verbal violence will turn on them.

“As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them.”

“Evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.”

2. Verbal violence will provoke God’s judgment.

“Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire: into deep pits, that they rise not again.”

III. THEIR VERBAL VIOLENCE SHOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO GOD.

1. Turn to God in prayer for His protection.

“Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man.”

2. Turn to God for strength.

“O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.”

3. Trust God to vindicate you.

“I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.”