

- a. It is easy to miss but in the prayer of imprecation, the psalmist really seeks that God will honor His Word. True, his language is shockingly frank, but see the following:
    - vs. 7b is based on Prov. 28:9
    - vs. 14 is based on Ex. 20:5And much of the intervening matter is simply what grows from such wickedness.
  - b. The language is addressed to God in what is known in Hebrew as the "jussive", a pleading command. In other words, the Psalmist asks God for this, he does not tell Him. Very important, he does not take matters into his own hands, either.
  - c. We do not want to overwork the writer's testimony for himself, but it is very practical. He has done all that could be done to bless the foe and has received insult and calumny for his effort. Now he asks God to let justice have its course.
  - d. The last part of the Psalm is rather like a tired refrain. Not that it is any less fervent or meaningful but the writer is weary of the conflict and so is cast upon God in a very simple way.
4. Some practical lessons:
- a. Life is somewhat circuitous. Those who curse will be cursed.
  - b. Our real defense is in Him and dedication to His will.
  - c. The ultimate testimony is that no one can or will condemn God's man.
  - d. Therefore let Him be first in our praise.
5. Conclusion: Christians sometimes ask if these Psalms may be used today? As implied in this lesson, they may surely be used to indicate how God works and what His standards are. Likewise they may teach us to ask Him for judgment and vengeance on those who wickedly oppose truth. Certainly one cannot use them in a personal sense as a means of "getting even". The study of them is much richer and more comprehensive than that. But if they can only be used in a limited and measured sense, they still serve a great value. They remind us that "vengeance" is His. We are warned that He is not afraid or unwilling to wield it as the case may require. Therefore we do not have to be vengeful in a personal way ourselves. We simply look for and cry for the righteous acts of God.