

- I. God will defend the righteous (1-7)
 - A. The righteous are delivered by the truth, the fool is condemned by the same
 - 1. No man can resist the will of God.
 - a) A wicked man's glory is in what he has, but his house will be judged and ruled by those who do right
 - (1) We do not make plans to settle scores, we make plans according to our calling
 - B. Proverbs 2:8-10 - Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. 9 Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity *and* every good course. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
- II. Those ruled by God see times and seasons, but those ruled by hate will only see their demise (8-14)
 - A. God will avenge His people
 - 1. Those who lust for blood will eventually drowned in their own. A heart devoted to itself will never prosper; it will lose even what it has
 - a) A man that constructs a trap for the righteous, will be surprised when they themselves fall in it.
 - (1) Rejoice when freedom comes and do not forget that it is God that has prepared you, covered you and carried you
 - B. Psalm 5:8-10 - Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. 9 Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity *and* every good course. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
 - III. God can add to a people of solid reputation (15-17)
 - A. Seasons of trial are preparation; seasons of rest are what preparation
 - 1. Our witness can't be tased in how we feel, but what is required of a child of God
 - a) Do not allow anger to exert control over your responses. Christ told us there would be difficult times.
 - (1) Reconciliation isn't about proving your right, its about continuing to do what is right, when others have done wrong
 - (a) Loving what is right makes us safe people to be around, a safe church to grow in and it demands we be truth tellers
 - i) We must devote ourselves to God, His work and His people
 - (1) It is His standard alone we must know and accept
 - B. 1 Timothy 3:2-10 - **2** An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not addicted to wine [c]or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. **4** *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity **5** (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), **6** *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation [d]incurred by the devil. **7** And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. **8** Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not [e]double-tongued, [f]or addicted to much wine [g]or fond of sordid gain, **9** *but* holding

to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.