

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 140

4/29/13

## Psalm 140

## Deliver Me From Evil

A Psalm of David that recognizes how evil surrounds someone trying to live right. Paranoia involves fear without facts – this Psalm, however, deals with facts that give ample reason to be aware and careful! “You therefore, beloved, since you *know* this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked” (2 Peter 3:17).

Verses 1-5 pray for preservation from evil men;  
Verses 6-7 reassert confidence in God;  
Verses 8-11 pray for persecution on the wicked;  
Verses 12-13 remind the upright of their reward.

**Verses 1-5:** God is asked to “Deliver me” “from evil men; “Preserve me from violent men;” “Keep me” “from the hands of the wicked.” Jesus taught His disciples to pray “do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:13). “Evil men” are those who: plan it in their hearts; gather for war; hone their tongues like serpents; speak venomously. Psalm 140:3 is quoted in Romans 3:13 to help describe sinners in need of Jesus Christ. Little wonder that John the Baptist (Luke 3:7), then Jesus (Matthew 12:34; 23:33), called their generation of Jews a “brood of vipers.” “The wicked” are those determined to “make my steps stumble;” hidden a snare to tie me up; “spread a net;” “set traps,” all designed to stop a faithful person from being faithful!

**Verses 6-7:** David’s God hears his supplication, provides strength to save, and protects his head in battle.

**Verses 8-11:** If the wicked are unpunished, their pride swells. Solomon would later say: “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” (Ecclesiastes 8:11). David’s prayer is that: their evil words are turned back upon them; they are consumed by fire; their slander goes unproven; evil men fight it out with the violent men! Worldly people “slander” the message of salvation: “For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? And *why* not say, ‘Let us do evil that good may come?’--as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just” (Romans 3:7-8). “Whoever hides hatred *has* lying lips, And whoever spreads slander *is* a fool” (Proverbs 10:18).

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.*



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**Verses 12-13:** Regardless of the opposition, God will prevail on behalf of the “afflicted,” giving “justice for the poor,” being thanked by the righteous, and receiving the upright to “dwell” in His presence.

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