

Psalm 5

¹⁻² Dear LORD,

Please hear what I am trying to say as I cry out to You in prayer. I am so weighed down with despair in my soul that sometimes all I can do is cry. During those difficult times I try to call out to You, but all that comes out is a feeble moan expressing the deep agony within my soul. LORD, please turn Your full attention to the sound of my groaning, and respond to the sound of my crying. I call upon You, Jesus Christ, the Messiah,¹ because You alone are my God and my King, the self-existent One.³ I am sharing my need with You early in the morning so that I can eagerly watch all day long for Your answer when it comes.⁴ I can do so with confidence because I know that You are not pleased with the wicked or with the evil things they do. I know that this is true because You are holy and without sin.⁵ Therefore, the fool who brags about his sin will not have a leg to stand upon when he appears before You to be judged. He will be shocked to learn that You hate everyone who practices wickedness. In fact,⁶ You will destroy those who practice sinful deeds, and You will be this harsh because You cannot tolerate anyone who tells lies about his neighbor or kills another man without just cause.

⁷ These sinners can do as they please, but as for me, I will gladly worship and praise You in a manner worthy of Your holy name. I will do so because of the immensity of the tender love and kindness You have bestowed upon me in the past.⁸ LORD Jesus, lead me down the path of doing good and avoiding sinful practices as a testimony to my enemies of Your great love for me. Guide me as I walk the straight and narrow path every waking moment of the day.⁹ I want to walk in the way of the LORD, because nothing my enemies advise me to do is trustworthy. All of their thoughts and actions are the kind that bring about their own destruction and lead to a premature death. They also flatter others in order to gain an unfair advantage over them.¹⁰ LORD, hold them guilty and responsible for the wrongs they have committed, and let their lives be destroyed by the consequences of their sin. Let the immensity of their evil acts overpower the unrepentant, because they are committed to rebelling against You.

¹¹ On the other hand, let all those who have put their trust in You for protection and security be glad and sing praises to You for all eternity. LORD, protect them from the harmful effects of the sins wicked men commit. Then those who love and trust You will praise and glorify Your name for the wonderful things You have done for Your people.¹² It is only right that they should praise You because You are the One who blesses those who not only make a practice of doing good but also make a practice of turning away from every sinful practice. In fact, You have totally enclosed them within the sphere of Your tender love and favor so that nothing can hurt or hinder them without Your permission. No one else can do that for any man.

¹ In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used.