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***Psalm 140*** *(a Psalm of David)*

*1Rescue me, Lord, from evildoers;
    protect me from the violent,
2who devise evil plans in their hearts
    and stir up war every day.
3They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent’s;
    the poison of vipers is on their lips.*

*4Keep me safe, Lord, from the hands of the wicked;
    protect me from the violent,
    who devise ways to trip my feet.
5The arrogant have hidden a snare for me;
    they have spread out the cords of their net
    and have set traps for me along my path.*

*6I say to the Lord, “You are my God.”
    Hear, Lord, my cry for mercy.
7Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer,
    you shield my head in the day of battle.
8Do not grant the wicked their desires, Lord;
    do not let their plans succeed.*

*9Those who surround me proudly rear their heads;
    may the mischief of their lips engulf them.
10May burning coals fall on them;
    may they be thrown into the fire,
    into miry pits, never to rise.
11May slanderers not be established in the land;
    may disaster hunt down the violent.*

*12I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor
    and upholds the cause of the needy.
13Surely the righteous will praise your name,
    and the upright will live in your presence.*

*Romans 12:14-21 “14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.] Do not be conceited.17Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. 20On the contrary:*

*“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

*Ephesians 4:26-27 (The Message) “Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don’t use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don’t stay angry. Don’t go to bed angry. Don’t give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.”*

*Romans 3:22-24 (The Voice) “This redeeming justice comes through the faithfulness of Jesus, the Anointed One, the Liberating King, who makes salvation a reality for all who believe—without the slightest partiality. 23You see, all have sinned, and all their futile attempts to reach God in His glory fail.”*

*Romans 5:10 “For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”*

*Colossians 1:20-23 (The Message) “Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.21-23You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God’s side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.”*