

## 11. The Book of Psalms 9:1-20

---

### ***A Godly Perspective is Key***

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(7-13-25)

---

Find this week's sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

---

This morning in our study of the Book of Psalms—I'd like to draw your attention to Psalm 9.

I spent a lot of time going over Psalm 9, reading and re-reading it (and praying) to see if there was something in particular the Lord wanted us to focus on this morning. I almost skipped it in favor of another Psalm since so much of it included topics we had already covered—but then the subject of *perspective* caught my eye.

As I read the Psalm again with that theme in mind—I began to see it in a new light—and from a new *perspective*.

*Perspective* is more important than we often think—a proper perspective of life is vital to living a fruitful life for God—as well as a satisfying and meaningful life for ourselves.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 2 that we were raised with Jesus and have been seated with Him in heavenly places. As such we no longer view this life as creatures of earth—but now as children of God from a heavenly or an eternal perspective.

I think we'd all agree that a person living in the Penthouse of a skyscraper has a whole different perspective of things than does the person living on the ground floor. When it comes to living the Christian life—the right perspective can mean the difference between victory and defeat—between joy and depression.

The armies of Israel were paralyzed with fear as they looked at the 9-½ foot Philistine champion named Goliath—but David, a teenager, ran to meet him in battle with the words:

*"You come to me with sword and spear, but I come to you in the name of the living God—and it is He who will deliver you into my hand!"*

The armies of Israel saw the situation from an *earthly* perspective, and it brought fear and defeat into *their* hearts—whereas David saw the situation from *God's* perspective, and it brought strength and victory into *his* heart!

There is no greater principle for living a joyful, victorious Christian life than having the proper perspective.

We see this principle demonstrated in David's life by the first few verses of Psalm 9—but first, let me give you our outline:

- I. **The LORD is on the Throne—verses 1-3**
- II. **The LORD will Punish the Wicked—verses 5-8, 15-17**
- III. **The LORD will Vindicate the Righteous—verses 4, 9-12**

#### IV. The LORD is Coming to Deliver His People—verses 13-14, 18

#### V. The LORD will Reign in Righteousness—verses 11, 19-20

David opens up this psalm with praise to God for what has not yet happened—and yet David maintains a godly perspective with regard to his circumstances.

##### I. The LORD is on the Throne—verses 1-3

###### Psalm 9:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. <sup>2</sup> I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. <sup>3</sup> When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence.

A godly perspective starts with remembering that God is on His throne—or in other words, that He is sovereign and in complete control of every situation. This is why Paul admonished us, *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

The reason we can give thanks in *everything* is because we know (by faith) that everything is working together for our good because we love God and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Therefore, we can say like David—**“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart!”**

Half-hearted praise isn’t pleasing to God because it isn’t based on total faith in His Person and promises, but rather, it is coming from a place of doubt and discouragement. So we try to *‘muster up’* some praise but it’s only half-hearted because I only half believe God will come through for me in this situation.

Praise is the outward manifestation of faith and—*“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”* (Hebrews 11:6) So often we praise God halfheartedly because we can’t see what God is up to or why we should have to go through this situation. But that is seeing things from an earthly rather than a heavenly perspective—

###### James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

##### II. The LORD will Punish the Wicked—verses 5-8, 15-17

###### Psalm 9:5-8, 15-17 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. <sup>6</sup> O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished. <sup>7</sup> But the Lord shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. <sup>8</sup> He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness...

<sup>15</sup> The nations have sunk down in the pit *which* they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.

<sup>16</sup> The Lord is known *by* the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. <sup>17</sup> The wicked shall be turned into hell, *And* all the nations that forget God.

This of course is what the Bible ultimately predicts will happen to this ungodly world—God is going to judge it. (Revelation 6-19)

A righteous God has to punish sin although His primary desire is to show mercy—which is why Habakkuk cried out to the Lord, *“In wrath (judgment) remember mercy!”*

As God punishes sin in a person’s life—He often does so with the ultimate goal of bringing them to repentance so that He can forgive them, save them and enter into a close personal relationship with them.

**2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise [to bring judgment upon the wicked], as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent [and be saved].

**Isaiah 19:19–22 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the heart of Egypt, and there will be a monument to the Lord at its border. <sup>20</sup> It will be a sign and a witness that the Lord of Heaven’s Armies is worshiped in the land of Egypt...<sup>21</sup> The Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians. Yes, they will know the Lord and will give their sacrifices and offerings to him...

<sup>22</sup> The Lord will strike Egypt, and then he will bring healing. For the Egyptians will turn to the Lord, and he will listen to their pleas and heal them.

God is a merciful God Who wants to forgive—but if people refuse then they need to understand:

**Psalms 7:11–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> God is a just judge, And God is angry *with the wicked* every day. <sup>12</sup> If he does not turn back [repent], He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. <sup>13</sup> He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.

Yet the Church isn’t for the most part preaching about the coming judgment of God—it frightens people, they don’t want to hear it. Instead, they want sermons that will boost their fragile self-esteem and make them feel good about themselves and how they’re living instead of telling them the truth—*“O but God is love...”*

Jesus spoke more of judgment than anyone else—because He wanted people to turn from their sins. The preaching of judgment is meant to scare people and make them uncomfortable—maybe enough to get them saved!

**Jude 22–23 (NLT)**

<sup>22</sup> And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. <sup>23</sup> Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

Remember, God is on the throne no matter how bad this world gets—God is still in control (a godly perspective). This is one of the stumbling blocks many unbelievers have with regard to God—*“If He’s real and He’s up there why is the world so bad? Why is there injustice and disease, famine and war...etc.”*

This world is so bad because people in general are bad (Romans 3:10-12, 18)—fallen sinners who are living in rebellion against God.

**Psalms 9:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

*“What about those who have never heard about Jesus Christ—how can a righteous God judge them?”*

I don’t know exactly—but what I do know is that God will judge them righteously—He will be totally fair with them. But how about you? You have heard the gospel. What are you doing with Jesus Christ?

### III. The LORD will Vindicate the Righteous—verses 4, 9-12

#### **Psalm 9:4, 9–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness...

<sup>9</sup> The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. <sup>10</sup> And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You. <sup>11</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. <sup>12</sup> When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.

The dictionary defines ‘**vindicate**’ as: *‘to free from allegation or blame.’*

#### **Psalm 35:23–25 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> Wake up! Rise to my defense [vindication]! Take up my case, my God and my Lord. <sup>24</sup> Declare me not guilty [vindicate me], O Lord my God, for you give justice. Don’t let my enemies laugh about me in my troubles. <sup>25</sup> Don’t let them say, “Look, we got what we wanted! Now we will eat him alive!”

In the eyes of the world, Christians are guilty—period! They claim we are guilty of hate, of prejudice—and even of murder (“to not support abortion or transgender surgeries on minors is to ‘kill’ people” they claim.)

Jesus warned us that when we stand up for Him and for righteousness—the world would hate us, attack us and even kill us (John 15:18-25) The Bible says that when Jesus returns to the earth, He will judge the enemies of God—but not before they admit their crimes against the people of God:

#### **Revelation 3:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

But first things first—

#### **Psalm 9:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble.

The idea behind the Lord being our refuge is *‘a place of safety for all those who belong to Him.’*

#### **Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> The name of the Lord *is* a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

#### **Psalm 61:3–4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. <sup>4</sup> I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings.

The Bible tells us that we need to flee to Christ for refuge from coming judgment—*“to escape the wrath to come.”*

The Bible says there is only safety from the sword of judgment *in* Christ—not by being ‘close’ to Christ but by being in Christ (salvation). In Him alone is life and safety—outside of Christ there is death and judgment. (Mention Noah’s Ark as a type of Christ)

Too many people go to church and are ‘hanging’ around Jesus, they’re in close proximity to Jesus—but they’re not in Jesus. They’re not in Jesus because they have never received Him as their Savior and this has given them a false sense of security.

The time has come to make a full commitment to Him by entering into Him by faith and following Him with all your heart!

\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Catch this weeks’ audio, video, study and sermon notes [HERE](#).