

12. The Book of Psalms 9:1-20

A Godly Perspective is Key-Part 2

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(7-27-25)

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Last time in our study in the Book of Psalms we started looking at Psalm 9—a psalm that has as an underlining theme the idea of perspective.

Whenever I think of the subject of perspective, I can't help but think of how one man literally took that concept to new heights!

"Several years ago, I heard the story of Larry Walters, who at that time, was a 33-year-old man who decided he wanted to see his neighborhood from a new perspective.

So, he went down to his local army surplus store one morning and bought forty-five used weather balloons and several tanks of helium. He and his friends spent the rest of the morning filling the balloons with helium and tying them to Larry's favorite lawn chair which was anchored securely to the ground. That afternoon Larry strapped himself onto that lawn chair ready for his adventure. He took along a six-pack of beer, a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich, and a BB gun (figuring he could shoot out the balloons one at a time when he was ready to land).

Larry's plan was to let the balloons lift him about 100 feet in the air, float around his neighborhood for an hour or so, have lunch, and then shoot out some of the balloons and descend gently back to earth. That was his plan—but it didn't quite work out that way! For you see, when Larry's friends cut the ropes that tethered his lawn chair to the earth—it shot straight up into the air and quickly disappeared from view. The next time Larry was spotted was by a Pan Am pilot at 11,000 feet who radioed the tower at LAX saying that they had just passed a man on a flying lawn chair!

You might be thinking to yourself, *"Why didn't Larry use his BB gun to shoot out some of the balloons?"* Well, his lawn chair had shot up so quickly on take-off that Larry dropped his BB gun leaving him to the physics of helium and the mercy of the wind.

He stayed airborne for most of the remaining part of the day, forcing the airport to shut down its runways for much of the afternoon, causing long delays in flights from across the country.

Eventually, Larry's helium powered flying lawn-chair *'ran out of gas'* so to speak and slowly descended back to earth.

After he was safely on the ground once again (and given several citations by the police), reporters asked him: *"Larry why did you do it?"* To which Larry simply replied, *"Because sometimes you gotta do something—you can't just sit there."*

Larry Walters was tired of looking at life from the same old vantage point—he wanted to see things from a new perspective.

I think a lot of people would like to *'rise above'* their empty, unsatisfying lives and gain a new perspective on life—maybe not like Larry, but you get the idea.

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.

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—

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

Psalm 9:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. ² I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. ³ 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.

Nothing happens in my life except what God allows for His purposes.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

It doesn't say "*we see all things working together for our good...*", it says "*we know it by faith*"

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 the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

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

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

⁵ You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. ⁶ O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished. ⁷ But the Lord shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. ⁸ He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness...
¹⁵ The nations have sunk down in the pit *which* they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.
¹⁶ The Lord is known *by* the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. ¹⁷ The wicked shall be turned into hell, *And* all the nations that forget God.

Psalm 37:1–2, 8-11 (NKJV)

¹ Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. ² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb...
⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only *causes* harm. ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off; But

those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth. ¹⁰ For yet a little while and the wicked *shall be no more*; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it *shall be no more*. ¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

I want to see people saved, but if they refuse, I take comfort in knowing that they will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment for the evil things they have done.

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

Psalm 9:4, 9–12 (NKJV)

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

⁹ The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. ¹⁰ And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You. ¹¹ Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. ¹² 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 35:23–24a (NLT)

²³ Wake up! Rise to my defense [vindication]! Take up my case, my God and my Lord. ²⁴ Declare me not guilty [vindicate me]...

In the eyes of the world, Christians are guilty—period! They claim we Christians are guilty of being ‘*haters*’ and on the wrong side of God who is love.

Why do they accuse us of being haters? Because we oppose abortion, gays in the military, drag queen story hours in public schools for little kids, and transgender surgeries on minors just to name a few things.

But when Jesus returns to judge this evil world, He will gather us to His side and declare that we belong to Him and were faithfully representing Him on earth. Or in other words, someday we will be vindicated—but first things first:

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

Psalm 9:13–14, 18 (NKJV)

¹³ Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, ¹⁴ That I may tell of all Your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation...

¹⁸ For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall *not* perish forever.

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).

And when they kill Christians, many religious zealots will actually believe they are serving God as they do. (John 16:2)

This will reach a crescendo during the Tribulation Period when the followers of the Antichrist will hunt down Christians and kill them for not worshipping the Antichrist and for refusing to take his mark on their foreheads or right hands (Revelation 13).

Matthew 24:9, 13 (NKJV)

⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake...¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved [from the physical persecution of the Antichrist and his followers]

How? By Jesus’ return:

Matthew 24:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

These are Tribulation saints in view—Church saints will be saved at the Rapture. In other words, better days are coming—a new world is fast approaching.

We are living in a world where justice has been perverted—where the guilty are protected and the innocent (the victims) are often punished.

(For example: The 2020 BLM rioters were never punished but 70-year-old grandmas were arrested and charged as domestic terrorists for peacefully praying outside abortion clinics.)

But take heart for the Lord is coming to deliver us from this present evil world of injustice, crime, corruption and persecution—it’s called the Rapture of the Church.

James 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord...[Rapture]

The coming of the Lord for His Church will deliver us from this present evil world system that is hostile to God and His people.

This is why Paul called it the ‘*blessed hope*’—

Titus 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

The Rapture will put an end to the persecution of God’s Church (the Body of Christ) and will begin a life of peace and joy that will never end—until then we must be *patient*.

The Greek word for ‘*patience*’ is *hupomonē*, which literally means “*to remain under*” and speaks of “*endurance under great stress*” or “*perseverance under pressure*.” In other words, this **patience** means “*to stay put and stand fast when you’d like to run away*” (as in your ministry and/or marriage). (David in Psalm 55)

James then uses the *farmer* as an illustration of patience—

James 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

The farmer is a great example of someone who does a lot of work *before* he sees any results—and especially before he can harvest his crops. He has to cultivate the soil, plant the seed, wait for the early rain (by faith), be patient and wait for the latter rain (by faith)—and then comes the harvest.

James is telling us that the same basic qualities that go into farming—go into being a servant of the Lord.

- We have to cultivate the soil of a person's heart through prayer.
- We have to plant the seed of the Word by sharing the gospel with them—and then wait for the Holy Spirit to *"water the seed."*
- Then we have to patiently wait, by faith, for the harvest—which James tells us is ultimately the coming of the Lord.

We have a part in the harvest (as does the farmer) but only God can bring forth new life (1 Corinthians 3:7)—all of which requires faith and patience.

The main point James is driving home as to how believers can learn patience is by—first cultivating the proper mindset in serving the Lord. No farmer plants the seeds one day and expects to harvest his crop the next day—he understands it takes time, and he is mentally prepared to patiently wait for God to bring about the harvest.

The same must be true with the servants of God—we labor by faith trusting Him to bring about salvation in the hearts of those people where we have planted the seed of the gospel.

But ultimately, we wait for His coming when our work will be rewarded with a glorious harvest for the Kingdom (Rapture)—but once again this whole process requires patience and faith—

James 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Sometimes Christians can grow impatient in waiting for the Lord's return—and even begin to question if He's ever going to come back.

Men, when your wife was pregnant and her due date came and went and the baby still hadn't come, did you accuse her of deceiving you—*"You lied to me, you're not pregnant!"* No, of course you didn't because the *signs* were all there, the baby was going to come eventually—and so you continued to wait patiently.

The same is true with the coming of the Lord—the signs of His coming are all there, He will eventually come back (but not past His 'due date'—the Lord is never late!).

So, keep on doing what you're doing for Him and always be ready for His coming—

Mark 13:32–37 (NKJV)

³² “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴ *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

That brings us to our final point—

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

Psalm 9:11, 19–20 (NKJV)

¹¹ Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people...
¹⁹ Arise, O Lord, Do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in Your sight. ²⁰ Put them in fear, O Lord, *That the nations may know themselves to be but men.*

I believe this admonition in verses 19 and 20 of Psalm 9 is dealing with the rule of Jesus over the earth during the Millennial Kingdom:

Psalm 2:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

Remember, the title of today’s message is ‘*A Godly Perspective is Key.*’

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 (NLT)

¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

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.

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