

## Psalms 9-11

Today in our study of the book of Psalms we are going to be looking at three chapters again and this week there is kind of a theme in all three in that David will speak of the righteousness of God and the judgment of the wicked.

Having said that Psalm 9 says again that it was written to the chief musician and this time it's to the tune of "Death of the Son." Heavy metal comes to mind but I'm sure that was not the case. Again we don't have all of the details about what exactly was happening in the life of David.

Let's look at verses 1-2 which say this **9 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.**

I have to say that what we see here from David is something you and I should be looking to emulate. We have 4 phrases here that we can briefly break apart.

The first thing David says is I will praise you O Lord with my whole heart. For David as he focused on the Lord during the writing of this, he knew that the deepest parts of his heart were praising the Lord.

Sadly there are times in life when people will praise the Lord with their mouths and yet the deepest parts of their heart aren't really seeking the Lord at all. It is quite possible for people to talk a great game when it comes to Christianity, they know the language you could say but their hearts are far from God. Jesus said this over in Matthew 22:37-

38 which says <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment.

You and I should examine our own lives and ask ourselves do I truly love God with all my heart? Or am I double minded and double tongued? Does my heart match what my mouth says?

And then David said I will tell of your marvelous works. I have to ask you today has God done some amazing works in your life? Has God showed up in times of impossibility? Has God changed you from the inside out as Jesus has worked in your life? I would hope the answer to this is an emphatic YES! And you should be telling people about it.

Then David says I will be glad and rejoice in You...Our family recently did a devotion together and we talked about the verse that says Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice and that’s found in Philippians 4:4. We talked about how our circumstances may not always make us happy, that life may be tough and full of trials and yet we can rejoice in Jesus, for He has saved us! We can always rejoice in the Lord no matter how hard life might be.

And then David said I will sing praise to Your name, O most high...That’s some good medicine for the daily difficulties of life. To praise the Lord...to put your eyes on Him, to look to Him for His greatness and to seek to exalt the name of Jesus.

You know I believe these first 2 verses of Psalm 9 are what the world needs. The world often finds itself sad, frustrated, depressed and mentally overwhelmed...I believe our perspective in life can change the position of our minds. It’s not easy when life is full of trials to have

this mentality but you can do it as you reach out to the Lord and you focus on Him and how amazing He is and you tell others of the goodness of the Lord...Today if you are struggling I encourage you to meditate on these verses and look to apply them to your life.

Philippians 4:8 says this <sup>8</sup> **Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.** If today your mind is stuck on things that aren't of God, I encourage you to capture your thoughts by the power of the Spirit and put them upon the goodness of God as David did here.

Let's move forward here if you look at verses 3-5 which say this

<sup>3</sup> **When my enemies turn back,**

**They shall fall and perish at Your presence.**

<sup>4</sup> **For You have maintained my right and my cause;**

**You sat on the throne judging in righteousness.**

<sup>5</sup> **You have rebuked the nations,**

**You have destroyed the wicked;**

**You have blotted out their name forever and ever.**

David certainly faced his fair share of difficulties as his enemies came after him on a regular basis. You and I also as we seek to live for Jesus will face persecution, there will be those that become a thorn in our flesh so to say.

Notice though that David simply says here that his enemies would turn back and they would fall and perish at God's presence. In other words David knew a day would come when God would uphold his

cause and come to his rescue and set the wicked who were against him in their place.

David then says that God had maintained his right and cause and that God sat on the throne judging in righteousness...David knew his heart was right before God...of course David wasn't perfect by any stretch of the imagination but he was known to be a man after God's own heart and as such David had a confidence that God would eventually come to his aid.

He knew that God sat on the throne and that He would judge in righteousness. We ought not forget that God is on the throne, though currently He has not taken possession of this world which has been purchased by the blood of Jesus our Father in heaven is still the One in authority.

David then goes on to say that God had rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked and blotted out their name forever and this speaks of the future judgment of God...I suppose it speaks of the here and now as well, as those who die without Christ will be judged and certainly God has His hand over the nations...We might remember Psalm 2 when it said that nations raged against God and plotted against Him...and the Lord's response was to laugh at them and to hold them in derision.

Look with me at verses 6-8 which say this **<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.**

One day God will judge the world, one day the enemy of our souls Satan will be defeated and the destructions that he orchestrates against God's people will be finished forever...I know I can't wait for that day.

Notice verse 7 says the Lord shall endure forever and He has prepared His throne for judgment. You can read about the judgment of God that will come upon the world over in the book of Revelation. Not only will God judge the nations and set things in order, but He will also judge both the righteous and the unrighteous.

When God does judge it will be done properly, purely and perfectly. As we said last week when it's all said and done no one will be able to say God was not fair in his judgments.

It also says here that God will administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. I'm so thankful that one day the Lord will stand for those who are His, that those who are taken advantage of and looked down upon in this world will see the glory of God and experience His defense of them.

**Verses 9-10 say <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.**

I'm not sure if you have ever experienced this as you went through life but sometimes we can feel really alone, sometimes we can feel as though there are many against us and many that might even take

advantage of us...It's wonderful that during those times the Lord is a refuge for us.

When life is overwhelming and the world seems against you understand that you have an Advocate that stands before the Father on your behalf and His name is Jesus...We can run to the Lord when we feel we are alone, we can cry out to Jesus and He always has time to hear us and to act on our behalf.

There are some things we pass through in life that only God can truly understand and I'm thankful that He is a refuge or a place of safety we can run to. I want to just ask you this morning what do you do when life is full of troubles? Do you hold on to things in your heart and mind or do you run to the One that loved you so much that He gave His life on the cross for your sins?

Perhaps today you need to hear these very verses that God is a refuge in times of trouble, that you should be running to Him and talking with Him about your difficulties...Maybe today you are holding on to a lot of emotions, and you feel like you have been bottling things up...perhaps Jesus would say the following to you that is found over in Matthew 11:28-30 which says **28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**

Maybe today is the day the Lord wants to meet you in your heart as you are broken before Him...Maybe you are carrying things that you can't control and you are carrying the difficulties of this world and the Lord would say to you that He can be a refuge for you if you would only come to Him.

In verse 10 David simply says You Lord have not forsaken those who seek You. I just love that, if you are in Christ and you seek Him the Lord won't forsake you. Your fellow man may fail you, but the Lord Jesus never will.

It's interesting after David says this and declares His great confidence in God that we see the following in verses 11-12 which say <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.**

What else can you do when you remember God's faithfulness and his omnipresence in our lives but praise Him and tell others of his wonderful deeds.

Notice it says when He avenges blood, He remembers them...sometimes it may seem like the wicked of this world are getting away with all kinds of things and it's hard for you and I not to want to avenge ourselves or speak against those who do us wrong, but we must remember that when the day and the hour comes the Lord will take care of business on our behalf...And we should always remember that God hears the cry of the humble...May we strive in our lives to be full of humility.

Look at verses 13-14 which say <sup>13</sup>**Have mercy on me, O Lord!**

**Consider my trouble from those who hate me,**

**You who lift me up from the gates of death,**

**<sup>14</sup>That I may tell of all Your praise**

**In the gates of the daughter of Zion.**

**I will rejoice in Your salvation.**

David again seems like his enemies are coming against him, there were those that hated him and wanted him dead and yet David rather than fighting for himself simply said “Have mercy on me O Lord!

It’s as if David is appealing to the Lord to rescue him and help him even though he was in a place of great trouble and David said that when the Lord does so he would be sure to tell of all of God’s praise in the gates of the city and that he would rejoice in the salvation of God.

It’s an amazing thing when the Lord rescues you from a dark place...I’m not sure you have ever experienced that in your life but the Lord can show up in unexpected ways on behalf of His children...When the Lord does show up make sure you give praise to the Lord and you look to bless His name...Be careful you don’t make things about yourself, but instead be about the business of the Lord.

Look at verses 15-18 which say <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.

Meditation. Selah

<sup>17</sup>The wicked shall be turned into hell,

And all the nations that forget God.

<sup>18</sup>For the needy shall not always be forgotten;

The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever.

God has a way of turning the deeds of the wicked back upon themselves. When there are those that cause you trouble understand that Lord has a way of handling business. We might remember Daniel

and the lions den and if you remember there were those who were against him and brought about a situation that Daniel was found violating the kings command...and Daniel was thrown in the den of lions and we watched as in the Word, God protected him...shortly after this the men who accused Daniel were thrown into that very pit.

The same thing happened with Haman in the book of Esther as he had a gallows constructed to have Mordecai the Jew hung from it...It wasn't long after that this man was hung from it himself.

It is true that what a person sows he shall reap. We talked about this last week, but when someone is working against a child of God the Lord has a way of turning the tables on that individual.

Verses 19-20 say <sup>19</sup>**Arise, O Lord,**

**Do not let man prevail;**

**Let the nations be judged in Your sight.**

<sup>20</sup>**Put them in fear, O Lord,**

**That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah**

A final plea from David at the end of this Psalm that the Lord would arise and not allow his enemies to prevail against him. David also asks the Lord to judge the nations and surely one day God will do that over all the earth, but I do think we see the judgment of God on the nations over the course of history as well.

David even asks God to put them in fear that the nations may know how small they are in the eyes of God...That's not a bad prayer to pray over the leaders of our world that God might put a proper fear of Himself in their hearts.

We now come to Psalm 10 and this time we aren't sure who the writer is as we are not told but several commentators suggest that it was David and we'll treat it as such as we study it. Some actually say that Psalm 9 and 10 should be combined and you can do some research on that if you would like...It's a song again this time and it is a song of confidence that God will triumph over evil.

It's interesting how it begins if you look at verses 1-2 which say **10 Why do You stand afar off, O Lord?**

**Why do You hide in times of trouble?**

**<sup>2</sup>The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor;**

**Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.**

It is as if David as he begins feels very alone. Have you ever felt like God was distant in your life? Have you ever felt like when everything has gone wrong that God is nowhere to be found? It's a hard place to find yourself, we should be reminded God always hears us and I am personally reminded that when the most difficult times in my life have been present that God was always there to respond to me though it can seem as if He is distant. God is always faithful to work and respond in our lives though it can take time.

Notice David says the wicked in his pride persecuted the poor and again we see a request that those who plot against the poor would have what they have planned come back upon them. We should be reminded that Galatians 6 says that God will not be mocked and a man will reap what he has sown...if he has sown to the flesh from the flesh he will reap corruption but if he has sown to the Spirit he will from the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Look at verses 3-7 which say <sup>3</sup>For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire;

He blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord.

<sup>4</sup>The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God;

God is in none of his thoughts.

<sup>5</sup>His ways are always prospering;

Your judgments are far above, out of his sight;

As for all his enemies, he sneers at them.

<sup>6</sup>He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved;

I shall never be in adversity."

<sup>7</sup>His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression;

Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity.

The wicked live for themselves, boast of what they want, they bless the greedy and even renounce God David says. The wicked in his pride refuses to seek God and surely that is true in life that pride keeps many people away from the Lord.

Notice it says God is in none of his thoughts. That's a foreign idea to me at this point in my life though before I knew Jesus I suppose all of this would apply to me.

It would even seem in verse 5 that David knew the wicked seem to always be prospering...have you ever felt like that when you looked at the world around you? That the wicked always seem to have good things happen? I think we can look at the super wealthy of this world and we know they are attached to evil and yet they always seem to only have good things as they go through life.

For the wicked they often find themselves in this world in places of power and prosperity and they can sneer at their enemies looking down upon them...The proud wicked man will even say I won't be moved nor will I find difficulty in my life...Perhaps we would remember that the wealthy of this world tend to throw money at their problems and yes money can achieve an awful lot in this world but you can't buy eternal security it can only be received as a free gift.

We even see the wicked are full of cursing, they lie and they oppress others and out of their mouth comes trouble and iniquity. What a sad place to be...Have you ever been around those who are proud and you watch them go through life without a single concern about what God would think? It's such a heartbreaking thing to watch because you who follow Christ know that there is only one true hope and it's found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Of the wicked David continues in verses 8-11 which say this<sup>8</sup>**He sits in the lurking places of the villages;**

**In the secret places he murders the innocent;**

**His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.**

**<sup>9</sup>He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den;**

**He lies in wait to catch the poor;**

**He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.**

**<sup>10</sup>So he crouches, he lies low,**

**That the helpless may fall by his strength.**

**<sup>11</sup>He has said in his heart,**

**“God has forgotten;**

**He hides His face;**

**He will never see.”**

There is a theme in these verses that can be found and its that the wicked lie in secret, dark places and they look to take advantage of others and they murder the innocent it says and their eyes are fixed on the helpless.

The idea is that the wicked are always looking out for who? For themselves and they don't care if others are in the way for they will simply run them over.

It's sad but true that the wicked of this world have no concern for others, they even set traps for the poor and try to catch them in a net.

Ultimately these individuals have no concern for God and they believe that God won't do anything about the choices they make and embrace and that He will never see.

Have you ever felt like it seems that the wicked get away with everything in this world? I know I have...I know God will ultimately work all things out for His glory and He will hold others accountable but it sure can feel like the wicked are winning sometimes can't it? For homework I want you to read Psalm 73 and the writer of this Psalm was experiencing just that as all around him he sensed the wicked prospering and getting away with everything.

In Psalm 73:18-20 as Asaph the writer of this Psalm went before the Lord as he thought about how the wicked prospered he came to this conclusion which says **Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. <sup>19</sup> Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. <sup>20</sup> As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.**

God has a way of dealing with the wicked doesn't He? They may prosper for a time and they may prosper while they go through this world **but one day they shall face the Judge and their evil deeds will be brought to the light.**

**Verses 12-13 say <sup>12</sup>Arise, O Lord!**

**O God, lift up Your hand!**

**Do not forget the humble.**

**<sup>13</sup>Why do the wicked renounce God?**

**He has said in his heart,**

**“You will not require *an account.*”**

David requests that God would rise up and come to the aid of the humble, that God would lift up His hand.

And then David asks a question “Why do the wicked renounce God?” I think that's a good question one that you and I probably ask often. How many times as you have gone through life have you wondered why people refuse to accept Christ? How many times have you been shocked when people reject Jesus? It's incredible to think that anyone would reject the love of Jesus Christ as seen on the cross...It's sad to me when I look back at my life before I received Jesus and I can see how blind I was and how lost I was **and everyone around me said I just needed Jesus but I couldn't see it or wouldn't see it.**

**Man often has the idea that God is not going to judge, some would find themselves described in the scriptures over in 2 Peter 3:3-4 which says this <sup>3</sup>knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup>and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”**

Some look at the world and say it's just as it has always been and God isn't ever going to really judge anything...They forget that the Lord is full of compassion, love and patience...Later on in 2 Peter 3:9 we have the following <sup>9</sup>**The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.** God withholds His judgment in the hopes that all of humanity might turn from their crooked ways and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses 14-15 continue by saying <sup>14</sup>**But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay *it* by Your hand.**

**The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless.**

<sup>15</sup>**Break the arm of the wicked and the evil *man*; Seek out his wickedness *until* You find none.**

Don't ever think that God doesn't see everything that happens in this world...God sees the ways of the wicked and He sees those who are experiencing trouble and grief...and He will repay. Don't ever forget that God will hold all of humanity accountable. Some experience judgment in this world while others will face it when they enter eternity.

Here we can see that the helpless and the fatherless commit themselves to the Lord and that God is a helper of these individuals. God surely looks on the lowly of this world and has a special place in his heart for them.

David even asks the Lord to break the arm of the wicked and evil man and to seek out his wickedness until there is no more.

**Verses 16-18 say <sup>16</sup>The Lord is King forever and ever;**

**The nations have perished out of His land.**

**<sup>17</sup>Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble;**

**You will prepare their heart;**

**You will cause Your ear to hear,**

**<sup>18</sup>To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,**

**That the man of the earth may oppress no more.**

As this Psalm closes again we have David who is probably the writer of this simply acknowledging that God is King forever and ever and the nations shall perish out of His land. How true that the rulers of this world are in His hand and that He guides them wherever He wishes they would go. God has a way of judging nations that reject Him...our own nation is in great trouble as well and I believe God in many ways is withholding the judgment that is due us.

The Lord here is said to hear the desire of the humble...I'm always reminded that God resists those who are proud but He gives grace to the humble as James 4 says...It says here that God will prepare the heart of the humble and the ear of God will hear those who cry out to Him...Surely God will see to it that justice is given to the fatherless and the oppressed and one day man who thinks he rules will oppress others no more.

Rest assured God will make all things right one day...though you may feel poor and oppressed in this world if you are in Christ you have a rich inheritance that will one day be yours.

Let's briefly look at Psalm 11 as it is a shorter one and we are told here that again it is of David and it's given to the chief musician.

Look at verses 1-3 which say **11 In the Lord I put my trust;**

**How can you say to my soul,**

**“Flee as a bird to your mountain”?**

**2 For look! The wicked bend *their* bow,**

**They make ready their arrow on the string,**

**That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart.**

**3 If the foundations are destroyed,**

**What can the righteous do?**

For David there was no where else to put his trust in life but the Lord and he declares this from the beginning of this Psalm.

It would seem from the context here that David may have been in a tight spot and there were those around him that were giving him advice that he should run away as a bird to a mountain...the wicked were bending their bow against David and they were ready to strike and even doing so secretly looking to take David out.

Perhaps the apostles felt this way at times as they were constantly pursued and persecuted for their faith. There are times when hard things come upon the children of God and there can be this thought in our minds that we just want to run away from the problems we face or even hide and hope they pass. May we learn to be like David standing our ground and trusting the Lord to bring us through things.

Over and over in the New Testament we see individuals that stood their ground and the Lord acted on their behalf.

There is even a question that is asked in verse 3 what can the righteous do if the foundation is destroyed? That's a valid question...but it will never happen. Those who are in Christ have their

eternity squared away and I like what we are told in Romans 8:38-39 which says **8 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The foundation of Jesus won't ever be broken apart and Jesus promised the following in Matthew 16:18 which says **18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

As we continue on David says this in verses 4-5 which say

**4 The Lord is in His holy temple,**

**The Lord's throne is in heaven;**

**His eyes behold,**

**His eyelids test the sons of men.**

**5 The Lord tests the righteous,**

**But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.**

Don't ever forget that the Lord sees everything that takes place in this world and that He is on the throne in His holy temple. Though you may be pursued and the enemy may try to crush you in the here and now our eternity is secure in Jesus.

We even see here that David acknowledges that God tests the righteous...that's interesting to think about that God allows things into our lives that we might be tested...I don't think those tests are so God can learn about us but that we might learn about ourselves and the Lord might purify us. Surely there are scriptures about the testing

and purification of God in our lives and for homework you might look at James 1:2-8 and 1 Peter 1:6-9.

Notice also that God makes a distinction between the righteous and the wicked. God certainly sees the hearts of humanity and He does act accordingly, showing Himself strong on behalf of the righteous while humbling those who are wicked.

Look at verses 6-7 which say

**<sup>6</sup>Upon the wicked He will rain coals;  
Fire and brimstone and a burning wind  
Shall be the portion of their cup.**

**<sup>7</sup>For the Lord is righteous,  
He loves righteousness;  
His countenance beholds the upright.**

So the Lord tests the righteous and He purifies them, but for the wicked He allows coals and fire and brimstone to rain upon them. The portion of the wicked will be everlasting destruction.

Sometimes I think there is maybe a disconnect when we think about the wicked of this world. We can think that these things are only reserved for the worst of the worst but the Bible makes it clear that all of us are wicked, that all of us have fallen short of God's glory, that all of us need a Savior and anyone who hasn't come to know Jesus Christ shall enter into judgment.

Perhaps you are here today and you think yourself to be a moral person, a mostly good person but listen if you look at the holy standards of God it becomes apparent that there is no one who is righteous no not one...and so I have to tell you today that the Bible is

clear that no one can come to the Father but through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross.

If you were to die to day without having come to Jesus you would be seen as wicked and deserving of judgment and you would find yourself in hell...however your eternity doesn't need to be spent this way for Jesus has died upon the cross that humanity might be forgiven and if you will only come to Him by faith receiving Him in your heart and confessing Him with your mouth the Bible says you will be saved.

If you need to do that today I would encourage you to grab me after the service as I would love to introduce you to Jesus and lead you in a prayer that you might give your heart to Him.

I like how the Psalm ends in verse 7 saying the Lord is righteous and he loves righteousness and He beholds the upright. You and I can be found righteous as we come to Jesus.

I'm thankful that for those who have received Jesus when you die you will go before God Almighty but as you stand before Him your record will be clear, you will be found spotless, without sin because the blood of Jesus has been applied by faith to your life.

Well we'll stop there for today, let's pray and we'll worship the Lord in conclusion.

Psalms 9-11 “The Lord Our Refuge”

## Chapter 9

### **Verses 1-2**

Matthew 22:37-38

Philippians 4:8

### **Verses 9-10**

Matthew 11:28-30

## Chapter 10

### **Verses 8-11**

Psalms 73:18-20

### **Verses 12-13**

2 Peter 3:3-4

2 Peter 3:9

## Chapter 11

### **Verses 1-3**

Romans 8:38-39

Matthew 16:18