

## **Sermon 62: Glorifying in God's Redemptive Grace: Psalm 49:1-20**

**Text: Psalm 49:1-20** "Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: Both low and high, rich and poor, together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp. Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about? They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption. For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish..."

**Summary:** True wisdom rejects all misplaced objects of trust and glories in God's redemptive grace.

**Proposition:** We must resist this deceptive pull and glory in the gospel.

**Interrogative:** How can we do this?

**Truth 1: Wisdom: We must pursue true wisdom in a distracting world: 49:1-4** "Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world..."

- **This section reads like Proverbs: Everyone needs this wisdom: 49:1-2** "Give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: Both low and high, rich and poor, together..."
  - "All..."
  - "Low...high..."
  - "Rich...poor..."

- **It is available to anyone who will seek it genuinely: 49:3-4** "My mouth shall speak of wisdom... I will open my dark saying upon the harp..."
  - **"Meditation:"** You will need to reflect to get it.
  - **"Incline:"** You will need to humble yourself to get it.
  - **"Dark saying:"** You will need to take time to work through it to get it.
- **Where can we find this wisdom?**
  - **Negatively:** Reject deceptive substitutes.
  - **Positively:** Embrace the truth.

**Truth 2: Folly: Trusting in wealth is a fatal strategy: 49:5-9** "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him...That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption..."

- **There are many levels to godly wisdom:**
  - **Wisdom that relates primarily to a good quality of life:**
    - Wisdom in our work
    - Wisdom in our relationships
    - Wisdom in our financial choices
    - Wisdom in our personal habits
  - **Wisdom that relates to our eternity:**
    - How is a sinner reconciled to God.
    - How does a redeemed sinner live a life of true value.
- **How do I find true security:** Five problems we all must face
  - **All of us will eventually die: 49:6** "Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil..."
  - **All of us have sinned and will face God as Judge: 49:6** "When the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about..."
  - **None of us can settle our debt with Him for ourselves or for another: 49:7** "None of them can by any means redeem his brother..."
  - **He must deal justly with our sin: 49:7** "Nor give to God a ransom for him..."
  - **That penalty is eternal: 49:8-9** "The redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption..."
- **I cannot find that security in myself or in another sinner: 49:7** "None of them can by any means redeem his brother..."

**Truth 3: Emptiness: Misplaced confidence will lead to irreversible loss: 49:10-12** "Man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish..."

- **This section reads like Ecclesiastes:**

- **Everyone dies and leaves their wealth to others: 49:10**  
"Wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others..."
- **Everyone lives as if they will somehow escape this certain end: 49:11** "Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever...they call their lands after their own names..."
- **Our lives are no more secure than an animal's life: 49:12**  
"Man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish..."
- **If our physical life is everything, then we are no different than an animal:**
  - **Ecclesiastes 1:14** "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit..."
  - **1 Corinthians 15:19** "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable..."

#### **Truth 4: Hope: God's gracious redemption is our only hope: 49:13-15**

"But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me..."

- **Death without God is unspeakably tragic: 49:13-14**
  - **Living for this life is tragic emptiness:** "This their way is their folly..."
  - **As people are dying, their children greedily wait to take all their stuff and repeat the cycle:** "Their posterity approve their sayings..."
  - **Their bodies will rot in the grave like an animal:** "Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them...their beauty shall consume in the grave..."
- **There is an alternative: 49:15** "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me..."
  - **Grace:** "But God..."
  - **Redemption:** "Will redeem my soul..."
  - **Resurrection:** "From the power of the grave..."
  - **Reconciliation:** "He shall receive me..."
- **This is the gospel:**
  - **Grace:** God's undeserved kindness...
    - **Romans 5:6-9** "When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him..."
    - **Ephesians 2:4-9** "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by

grace ye are saved...That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast..."

- **Redemption:** Through the payment of a price...
  - **1 Peter 1:18-20** "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot..."
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21** "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him..."
  - **1 Peter 3:18** "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."
  - **Colossians 1:14** "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins..."
  - **Hebrews 9:12** "By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us..."
- **Resurrection:** That can never be taken away...
  - **Romans 8:32-39** "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword...I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord..."
  - **Ephesians 1:11-14** "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will...In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession..."

- **Reconciliation:** That brings us into a right position before God...
  - **Ephesians 2:13-19** "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace...Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances...that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby...through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God..."
  - **Romans 5:10** "When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..."
  - **2 Corinthians 5:18** "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..."
  - **Colossians 1:20-21** "Having made peace through the blood of his cross...you, that were sometime alienated and enemies...now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight..."

**Truth 5: Comfort: This redemption preserves from an empty death:**  
**49:16-20** "Be not thou afraid..."

- Do not be afraid.
- Do not be confused.
- Do not be deceived.
- Christ is your one and only one hope.

**Applying the Passage:** Glory in the cross of Christ!

- **Negatively:**
  - Do not embrace any empty substitute.
  - Do not treat His work lightly.
- **Positively:**
  - **Turn to Him and be saved.**
    - Do not trust in riches.
    - Do not trust in status.
    - Do not trust in works.
  - **Rest in Him and be comforted:**
    - Do not be afraid.
    - Do not be confused.
    - Do not be deceived.
  - **Delight in Him and worship:**
    - "But God who is rich in mercy..."
    - "That He might show the exceeding riches of His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus..."

- **Remember Him and rejoice:**

- What He has done.
- Why He has done it.
- What He has given.